

AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 58

FEBRUARY 1989

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN**

**CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT)
AFGHANISTAN**

**AFGHANISTAN REPORT:
FEBRUARY 1989**

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

Edited and Published by Kamal Matinuddin on behalf of the Institute of Strategic Studies vide DM. Islamabad Memo No. 2617/C of 14-7-1985 and despatched under GPO's Registered No. N-1072, Telephones: 824628, 821340, 824658.

Subscription Rates: *Annual* Rs. 120.00 *Single copy* Rs. 10; *Overseas Annual* US \$ 60.00; *Single* US \$ 5.00 including air mail. *Address:* The Institute of Strategic Studies, Sector F-5/2, Islamabad.

Printed by Abdal Ghani Barq at Ferozsons Rawalpindi Ltd., 32 Saddar Road Rawalpindi, Telephones: 62302 — 62366 — 67901

ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (See map Appendix 7)

During the month of January, 1989, Mujahideen escalated attacks on airports in almost all parts of Afghanistan in order to disrupt air supply system of Soviet-Kabul forces. They persistently attacked Qandahar, Kunduz, Shindand, Ghazni, and Tarinkot airports and airstrips. Qandahar alone was subjected to rocket and missile attacks almost every day. The Mujahideen also blocked the Salang Highway which connects Kabul with the Soviet river port of Hairatan on the Oxus. Consequently Kabul experienced acute shortages of food, fuel and other supplies. But, ultimately, the Soviets were able to push through supplies under the protection of heavy armour and aerial bombardment. Both sides agreed that there had been heavy casualties along the Salang Highway.

Mujahideen sources reported 420 incidents in 21 out of 31 Afghan provinces during January 1989. They comprised 117 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets that is, convoys, mobile detachments, patrol units, aircraft on bombing and supply missions; and, 164 strikes against immobile targets, military garrisons, camps, security posts, airfields, government and ruling party establishments.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Ningarhar, Qandahar and Baghlan provinces followed by Parwan, Paktia and Kunduz.

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 18 provincial capitals including the major cities of Kabul, Qandahar and Jalalabad.

According to Radio Kabul reports, Security Forces conducted 146 operations in 21 provinces. These sources reported that "counter-revolutionary" elements carried out 72 acts of subversion in 15 provinces.

According to Mujahideen reports about 3,000 Afghan troops either voluntarily joined Mujahideen ranks, or were made to surrender. This is one of the highest figures for Kabul troops defecting or surrendering in a single month.

Thirty-one Soviet-made aircrafts were destroyed by the Mujahideen in January, 1989. Of these 17 aircrafts were destroyed on ground and 14 in the air. Of the total 31 aircrafts, 10 were helicopters.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

2 — NOTEABLE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Salang Highway

Running battles were fought along the Salang Highway in the provinces of Parwan, Kapisa and Baghlan. According to Soviet reports the Mujahideen were obstructing urgently needed food supplies in Kabul, and despite repeated requests and warnings, they persisted in the blockade. The Soviets then brought in heavy armour and aircrafts and resorted to very severe artillery and aerial bombardment.

Mujahideen said there were more than 600 civilians killed and twice as many wounded as a result of this. Mujahideen also said that the Russians were bringing in military hardware along with food to the besieged Afghan capital.

In view of the precarious security situation, the United States and several other countries closed their diplomatic missions in Kabul. The Kabul regime, however, described it as part of "psychological warfare" to show that security situation in Kabul was deteriorating. There were some reports of clashes between Mujahideen and regime troops in Paghman and Sarobi area.

Kunduz

After several days of intensive fighting the Mujahideen broke into the fortified Kunduz airport on 19th January. This apparently was part of another effort to take the capital city of Kunduz province. The Mujahideen force was made up of contingents from several provinces and parties, principally from the adjoining Takhar province. Perhaps, the guerillas could not hold the Kunduz airport for very long. While the Takhar lashkar was returning it was attacked by helicopter-borne commandos. After a sharp exchange of fire the commandos were forced to retreat.

Ningarhar

About 1,000 regime soldiers and militiamen were captured by Mujahideen at Khiva district headquarters, which fell to them after prolonged fighting. Another 300 regime soldiers were killed in this battle. Khiva, about 20 kilometres north of Jalalabad city is of considerable military importance for the besieged regime forces in Jalalabad. The Mujahideen also captured Goshta district headquarters on 19th January. About 100 troops were killed and 18 "officials" taken prisoner at Goshta. Kabul regime resorted to high-altitude bombing of Mujahideen positions and villages suspected of harbouring them. A large number of houses were demolished and non-combatants killed.

Scud missiles and MiG-27 aircraft were used against some Mujahideen strongholds.

Qandahar

As in previous months, Qandahar province remained the scene of very heavy fighting in January 1989. The Mujahideen who were virtually on the gates of the provincial capital concentrated their attacks chiefly on the vital Qandahar airport. More than 23 rocket and missile attacks were made on the airport, destroying a number of aircrafts and installations. The Mujahideen also captured Torkotal, a 'high-point' overlooking the airport. On their part, Soviet-made aircraft heavily bombarded Mujahideen positions in the surrounding areas.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimruz (also bordering Iran)

Kabul Times: Kabul, January 1: 921 families of our compatriots, consisting of 4,358 persons who were living in Iran returned to their homes in Nimruz province after the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation.

A source of the Ministry for Repatriates told BIA that similarly during this period 308 persons individually returned from Iran to that province.

After receiving necessary assistance, they were resettled in their residential areas (January 2, 1989).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On December 27, Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Lashkargah, killing 3 soldiers and injuring several others.

On December 28, Mujahideen captured 3 KHAD "spies" in Grishk sub-division and shifted them over to the Liberated Area for trial.

On December 30, Mujahideen clashed with Soviet-Kabul troops near Nad-e-Ali. Thirty soldiers were killed and 2 APCs and a jeep destroyed. Another 13 soldiers were captured.

On January 4, a KHAD office was destroyed in Lashkargah by exploding a bomb in the building.

Kabul Times: According to a report, as a result of a mopping-up operation conducted by the armed forces in the related area of Grishk district of Hilmand province, five of the extremists were killed and a

number of others were injured (January 1, 1989).

In response to the attacks by extremists on January 6 upon the residential areas in Grishk district and centre of Hilmand province, the armed forces of the province pounded the extremists' hideouts killing eight and wounding four (January 8, 1989).

A report from Hilmand says that the armed forces crushed three extremists and injured four others in Nahr-i-Saraj district of the province (January 14, 1989).

Radio Kabul: During a mopping-up operation by the Armed Forces in the Serah Kala Region, Grishk district, 8 extremists were killed and one truck and one rocket missile unit belonging to them were destroyed (News—Dari: January 25, 1989).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: On December 26, Mujahideen fired rockets on Qandahar airport.

On December 27, Mujahideen attacked a Soviet military camp in Dand, a Qandahar city suburb. A tank was hit with a rocket launcher.

On December 28, Mujahideen attacked security posts around Qandahar airport. Thirty-six regime soldiers were killed and 2 tanks destroyed.

On January 2, Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Qandahar airport and Chilzena areas. A helicopter was hit on the airfield. Twenty-one regime soldiers defected and joined the Mujahideen.

On January 3 and 4, Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in the airport and Torkotal areas. A tank was destroyed and a number of troops killed and wounded.

On January 5, Mujahideen attacked Qandahar airport.

On January 6, 7, and 8, Mujahideen rocketed and shelled Qandahar airport. At least 2 helicopters parked on the tarmac were hit. Thirty members of the 7th Mechanised Division deserted to Mujahideen.

On January 9, Soviet-made aircraft attacked villages of Nakhooni, Chilghoor and Koobi near Qandahar city. About 100 houses were demolished. On the other hand, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Shehr-e-Nau.

On January 11 and 12, Mujahideen fired rockets at security posts around Torkotal and Qandahar airport.

On January 13, Mujahideen attacked Qandahar airport, hitting a helicopter on the runway.

On January 14, two helicopters were hit while they were attacking Mujahideen positions in Zangabad and Mirakhor villages.

On January 15, a helicopter was hit on the runway at the Qanda-

har airport.

On January 18, Mujahideen clashed with regime troops in Panjwai, Maiwand and Airport areas.

On January 19, Mujahideen attacked Qandahar airport, hitting 2 helicopters while they were coming in to land. The helicopters were brought down with anti-aircraft guns.

On January 20, an AN-26 transport aircraft was shot down near Qandahar city.

On January 22, 24, 26 and 27, Mujahideen kept up their pressure and tempo of day and night attacks on Qandahar airport, hitting a number of tanks and aircrafts.

On January 27, Soviet-made aircraft attacked villages in the Angori area. A number of women and children were killed.

On January 29, heavy fighting continued around the Qandahar airport and Torkotal. Two helicopters were hit on the airfield.

VIRA: Reports from Qandahar province say that Mujahideen attacked and destroyed Militia posts of Kabul regime in Mangal Bagh area on 2nd of Jaddi killing six militiamen and injuring five others. One Mujahid was injured in this fighting. The Mujahideen have also killed and injured a number of Kabul regime troops when they attacked security posts inside Qandahar city on 5th of Jaddi. After conducting their attacks the Mujahideen safely returned to their bases (News—Pushto: January 3, 1989).

Mujahideen attacked the Qandahar Jail posts on 28th December damaging buildings.

Similarly, in another attack on the posts of Mechanical School on the 28th of December the Mujahideen destroyed a tank. Twelve militiamen were killed in the attack and the Mujahideen captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In the battle one Mujahid was martyred and three others were injured (News—Persian: January 4, 1989).

According to another report, the Afghan Mujahideen in an attack on the enemy troops in Deh Khawaja area of Qandahar province on Jaddi 23, destroyed one tank and a vehicle of the enemy killing fifteen communist troops (News—Pushto: January 20, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen in an attack on Qandahar airport destroyed two helicopters of the Kabul regime and killed their pilots. Similarly the Afghan Mujahideen destroyed two military vehicles of the Kabul regime killing eight Kabul troops (January 30, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen shot down a military helicopter of Kabul government which was attacking Mujahideen positions in Jangabad (ph) area in Qandahar province on Sunday last. All the four

persons on board were killed.

The Afghan Mujahideen sources said that similarly in a fierce battle with Kabul government troops, the Mujahideen captured a military post, north-east of Qandahar airport. The Kabul government troops while fleeing, left behind a large quantity of weapons.

The Afghan Mujahideen have intensified their attacks around the Qandahar airport (News—Urdu: January 18, 1989).

BBC: The British newspapers today carry reports about the situation in Afghanistan.

A report appearing in the *TIMES* from Qandahar says that the planes of the Afghan Air Force dropped three bombs on Qandahar city by mistake. These planes were flying at a very high altitude because of the fear of Stinger missiles. The correspondent of the paper writes from Qandahar that the Afghan Mujahideen are now running short of their stock of Stinger missiles, because the United States has stopped its supply to the Mujahideen more than three months ago. This has weakened military position of the Mujahideen. They are not in a position to shoot down the Afghan Air Force planes which fly at very high altitude.

The correspondent writes that the Mujahideen use machineguns to shoot down the Afghan planes, which do not prove effective against jet bombers.

THE TIMES carries another report by another correspondent, who writes that the area where the Mujahideen have taken positions is plain. As a result they can easily become targets of bombing by Afghan planes. But he writes that the Government forces are not attacking the Mujahideen. They only react to their attacks. The Government troops are demoralized and therefore they are trying to avoid fighting. Perhaps that is the reason that the bases of the Mujahideen are intact. Quoting a soldier of the Seventh Infantry Division of the Afghan Army the correspondent writes that the Afghan soldiers are not trusted but are constantly watched because they belong to different provinces.

Their officers, most often tell them stories of oppression and atrocities committed by the Mujahideen. The correspondent says that these stories may be true, because the Mujahideen sources themselves say that the Mujahideen extensively looted and plundered the cities of Kunduz and Kunar after capturing them.

The Mujahideen commanders are trying to prevent recurrence of such activities in Qandahar. With this in view selected units are used. The correspondent, however, adds that the unity which is at the moment visible among the Mujahideen may come to an end when they capture the city. The Mujahideen are hoping that because of rift be-

tween the Afghan Government and the Army, the Government troops at Qandahar may themselves surrender to the Mujahideen and that they will not be subjected to air raids. But if it did not happen the Mujahideen will face tough fight.

Commenting in an editorial on the situation in Afghanistan, *THE GUARDIAN* writes about the attitude of the western countries. The paper writes that the Governments of Western countries have accepted the unilateral and perhaps unworkable concept of a broad-based government in Afghanistan. The paper thinks the Mujahideen should not have been allowed to outrightly reject the recent mission and efforts of the Soviet envoy Mr. Yuli Vorontsov and refuse to give the former Afghan King Zahir Shah any role in future. The paper writes that there should be all sorts of pressures from the outside world to prevent civil war after the pull out of the Soviet troops. *THE GUARDIAN* warns that if a stable government is not formed there the Afghan refugees will not go back home. The paper writes that Britain should continue its diplomatic mission in Afghanistan (Sairbeen—Press Review—Urdu: January 24, 1989).

VOA: Reports that, two prominent Mujahideen Commanders controlling northern areas of Kabul, Ahmed Shah Masoud and Ustad Farid in their identical messages have warned the Soviet authorities to stop supplying arms to Kabul government under the cover of good supplies. Otherwise they said these convoys would be attacked. According to the report of Agency Afghan Press, both the Commanders in their messages have said that Islamic Alliance has allowed food convoys to pass safely in order to save the residents of Kabul from starvation, but the Soviet authorities are taking undue advantage from this concession. The latest information provided by the sources close to Mujahideen say that Mujahideen have attacked the positions of the government troops around Qandahar-Jalalabad. They carried out rocket attacks at Qandahar airbase on Thursday.

The sources say that during this attack, helicopters of the Afghan Air Force quickly took off from the airbase and started bombing Mujahideen positions. On this occasion one helicopter was shot down. Meanwhile, a fighter plane parked at the airbase was also destroyed by the Mujahideen.

In Islamabad, a spokesman of the Foreign Office has described a report of Radio Kabul and Tass news agency as totally false that two Pakistani helicopters were shot down by Afghan troops in Yaseen Baba area of Ningarhar province on Wednesday. The spokesman said that no Pakistani helicopter or aircraft had ever violated Afghanistan's air space. Kabul government had alleged earlier too that on the 9th of

January two Pakistani helicopters carrying Mujahideen leaders and Pakistani military officers had landed in Ghazi Abad farm near Jalalabad. On the basis of this information, Kabul government had also lodged a protest with Pakistan. Pakistan had rejected this allegation as baseless after three days (Radio Report—Urdu: January 22, 1989).

Radio Kabul: All the units of the armed forces have been observing the ceasefire declared by the state aimed at ending the fratricidal war. It was violated again on January 3rd in some provinces by the enemies attached to the Gulbadin extremist group. First the members of the Gulbadin and Khalis extremist groups shelled the city of Qandahar and the security posts around it causing casualties, reports BIA quoting authoritative sources. However the Soviet-Afghan forces in the city of Qandahar retaliated killing forty-two and injuring twelve extremists (News—English: January 5, 1989).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the heroic Armed Forces carried out successful operations against the extremists in Khost, Loi Woleswali and Herat, Qandahar, Laghman, Farah, Kunduz, Baghlan and Ningarhar provinces. In these operations, about 140 extremists were killed and scores of others injured. In these operations two Arab advisers were also killed and their several hideouts and ammunition depots were destroyed (News—Pushto January 9, 1989).

Eighty-seven families of our compatriots who were leading miserable life in foreign countries, returned home in areas belonging to Qandahar province. The Bakhtar Information Agency reports that these compatriots after receiving essential assistance were transported to their localities (News—English: January 16, 1989).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the heroic Armed Forces during the past twenty-four hours have carried out successful operations against the criminal extremists in different places of the country. During operations of the Armed Forces, in the outskirts of Ningarhar, Paktia, Herat, Qandahar, Laghman, Logar and Kabul provinces, 212 extremists were killed along with a number of Pakistani advisers (News—Pushto: January 19, 1989).

As a result of crushing blows by the artillery and Air Force in Daman district, 12 extremists were killed including their four ring-leaders, Lal Muhammad, Abdul Wakil, Jahangir and Hadir. Another 25 were badly injured.

In the course of this operation, four rocket launchers, a mortar, a Doshaka, a recoilless gun, and 40 light weapons belonging to the extremists were destroyed. According to another report, as a result of blows by the artillery forces in the region of Mohalajat, six extremists

were killed and four were injured.

According to another report, as a result of extremists' fire on Qandahar airport, six security personnel were injured (News—Dari: January 28, 1989).

During successful operations in Qandahar province, 109 extremists were killed and sixty-one others were injured. Thirty-one klashinkovs were seized and twenty-eight hideouts of the extremists were destroyed (News—Pushto: January 26, 1989).

Radio Moscow: Groups of irreconcilable opposition in Afghanistan have shelled some residential areas and security posts in Herat, Qandahar and Baghlan provinces. The Government troops retaliated. Since the first of this month till the 5th they observed a unilateral ceasefire declared by President Najibullah, but some opposition leaders rejected the new peace move by the Kabul authorities. Decisive measures are being taken to prevent subversive activity (News—English: January 6, 1989).

The irreconcilable Afghan opposition forces hit several Afghan cities with rockets yesterday. Several rockets landed at a hospital in Qandahar city. In retaliation, the Afghan military aircraft bombed positions of the armed opponents in Qandahar and Herat provinces and Khost Uleswali.

Bakhtar news agency reports that during their mopping-up operations, the Afghan security forces wiped out more than two hundred terrorists along with their six Pakistani military advisers (News—Pushto: January 21, 1989).

Operations with the use of Aircraft and Artillery were also carried out on Tuesday, 24 January in the areas of concentration of rebel forces in Ningarhar, Qandahar and Kabul provinces.

A report of the Afghan command points out that up to 200 extremists were killed or wounded in those areas (January 25, 1989).

The Bakhtar news agency reports that in the past twenty-four hours extremists rocketed and shelled the cities of Gardez, Khost and Qandahar. There were casualties among civilian population and servicemen (January 25, 1989).

Zabul

Radio Kabul: As a result of shattering blows by the air force on weapons and ammunition convoys belonging to extremists from the so-called Hizb-e-Islami group, 30 extremists were killed and 2 trucks carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed. Also during an air force operation against an extremist centre in Zabul province, 24 warmongers were killed. Six of their strongholds were destroyed

(January 25, 1989).

As a result of clashes which took place between the extremists in different parts of Zabul province five extremists were crushed and one other was wounded (News—English: January 30, 1989).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: On January 26, a helicopter ferrying supplies to the besieged Ghazni city was shot down.

On January 27, 'combined force' of Mujahideen launched a massive attack on regime establishments and troops in Ghazni. More than 100 troops were killed or wounded.

On January 9, 10 and 11, fighting continued around Ghazni city for control of some places of tactical importance.

On January 13, Mujahideen captured a security post at Shaikhak.

On January 15, Mujahideen captured the sub-district headquarters of Ramak.

On January 20, Mujahideen fired surface-to-surface missiles on Ghazni airport, hitting two oil depots. A regime force, supported by 8 tanks and armoured vehicles, came into reinforce the defenders. It was compelled to retreat after loss of one of the tanks.

VIRA: In a recent operation in Ghazni city, the Mujahideen captured forty Communist troops and destroyed a number of military posts as well as a huge quantity of arms. As the Mujahideen are tightening the siege of Ghazni city, the Kabul regime aircrafts are bombing the area to obstruct the advance of the Mujahideen (News—Pushto: January 31, 1989).

Radio Tehran: Afghan Muslim Revolutionaries arrested forty soldiers of the Kabul government after entering into the city of Ghazni. During the operation, several posts of communist forces were also destroyed and one hundred twenty light and heavy weapons captured.

The city of Ghazni is at present under the siege of Afghan Mujahideen and the Kabul government is trying to check the advance of the Muslim Revolutionaries by launching air-to-ground missiles (News—Urdu: January 30, 1989).

Paktika

Nil report.

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: On December 27, Mujahideen fired rockets on Gardez garrison. Twenty Kabuli troops were believed killed and 4 vehicles destroyed. Mujahideen also attacked security posts in Zeri

Ghundai and Ali Sher areas.

On December 30, Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops clashed in Matun and Jaji Maidan. Two security posts were overrun.

On January 1, Mujahideen ambushed Kabul regime convoy (somewhere in Paktia province), hitting atleast 3 vehicles. A number of soldiers were killed and wounded. Ten of them were taken prisoner.

On January 3, a security post was attacked at Musa Khan. Nine soldiers were killed and 3 captured.

On January 5, Mujahideen attacked troops in and around Matun. Two security posts were eliminated.

On January 6, Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops and establishments in Darwazgai near Khost. Twenty Kabul soldiers killed.

On January 7, Mujahideen fired rockets on Khost airfield. An aircraft was hit. Eight regime soldiers deserted to Mujahideen.

On January 8, Mujahideen fired rockets on Darwazgai security post. Ten regime soldiers were killed against 4 Mujahideen.

On January 10 and 11, Soviet-Kabul forces fired scud rockets on Maulana Haqqani's bases in the vicinity of Jawar.

On January 15 and 16, Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops in and around Matun. A security post at Zarmankai fell to Mujahideen who captured among other items two tanks. Also on 16 January, Mujahideen conducted a series of attacks on security posts near Bari in Khost district. Two posts were taken and 30 soldiers killed. Another 70 were taken prisoner. War spoils included: 100 klashnikovs, 5 mortars and two RPG-7 rocket-launchers.

VIRA: Mujahideen in a series of successful operations destroyed five posts of the communist regime in the vicinity of Khost town last week. According to a report a number of troops of the Kabul regime were killed during the operations, while seventy others were made captive. According to the report forty government soldiers also joined the ranks of the Mujahideen in the area (News—Pushto: Jan. 26, 1989).

BBC: We had interviewed Mujahideen commander of Khost area in Afghan Information Centre in Peshawar.

We asked Mustafa, the commander of Ittehad-e-Islami organization of Professor Sayyaf in Khost area to throw light on the situation in Khost area. He said:

Mustafa: Fierce fighting is going on in our area and the town of Khost is under the siege of the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen carried out operations on a garrison and two posts in Tora Ghora, Balwa Khan and Bari area on 16th of this month. These operations were very successful and we captured communists and a large quantity of weapons.

Compere: Are air raids still being carried out against you?

Mustafa: Yes, intensive bombardment was carried out a few days back. The air raids are being carried out against the Mujahideen positions day and night. But the Mujahideen are resisting the same (Current Affairs—Pushto: January 24, 1989).

VOA: Likewise, the office of the Hikmatyar Haz-e-Islami says that in a joint operation, the Afghan Mujahideen have captured Kabul regime security posts in Bari area in Pakiya province after fierce fighting on Jaddi 26. Thirty-eight government troops were either killed or wounded and seventy troops were made captive during the operation. The report says that a Kabul regime tank was destroyed and a large number of heavy and light weapons were captured by the Mujahideen.

On the other hand, office of the Milli Islami Mahaz says that under the command of Commander Wazir Khan, the Mujahideen captured two security posts in Khost Loya Uleswali on Jaddi 30. Four Mujahideen sustained injuries in the incident and details of the incident could not yet be known (Commentary—Pushto: January 24, 1989).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that in successful operations of the Armed Forces in Khost Loi Wolesswali of Pakiya province, a number of armed extremists were wiped out. One vehicle of the extremists loaded with arms, was also destroyed (January 8, 1989).

As a result of Armed Forces operations carried out at the gathering places of the extremists in the region of Jaji Maidan district and Khost Major District, dozens of the enemies of peace and security were crushed. About 20 of them were badly injured. The injured include a ringleader of the extremist Gulbadin group, Zabet Ali Akbar (January 16, 1989).

The Afghan Armed Forces have foiled designs of the extremists who intruded into Khost district from Pakistan during last few days. In this connection, Commandant of the Armed Forces of Khost Colonel Mohammad Farooq told Bakhtar news agency correspondent that some groups of armed extremists wanted to disturb peaceful life of the citizens of the area through use of heavy weapons. But units of the armed forces foiled their designs by killing sixty extremists including three Pakistani advisers and injuring many others. The armed forces also destroyed their hideouts and heavy weapons (News—Urdu: Jan. 15, 1989).

A number of terrorists were killed along with their Arab Advisers when the security forces raided their bases in Khost Uleswali and other parts in Pakiya province (News—Pushto: January 17, 1989).

Hundreds of the state employees, members of social and party organizations as well as personnel of the armed forces stationed in

Gardez city, centre of Pakiya province, launched on Thursday a voluntary work repairing a part of Kabul-Gardez highway and building some bridges as well, reports a Bakhtar news agency correspondent from Gardez city.

Twenty-five km of Kabul-Gardez highway which was blocked for seven months as a result of subversive actions of the extremists has been recently reopened to traffic and strong military posts have been set up along the highway.

Abdul Rashid Waziri, responsible for party control office of the PDPA, Anwar Hasel, Governor of Pakiya and other leading personalities of Pakiya province participated in the voluntary work (January 28, 1989).

Kabul Times: The elements attached to Gulbadin, also attacked with heavy weapons at around 1 p.m. violating the ceasefire, the outskirts of Gardez city, the regions of Tani, Alisheir and Harookhel of Khost division which was responded appropriately by the armed forces defending themselves. The operation left behind 17 extremists killed and a number injured (January 3, 1989).

According to another report armed men attached to Gulbadin, Khalis, Sayyaf and Rabbani groups fired heavy machine-guns on the residential areas in Alisheir and Zarmangi districts of Khost division, Gardez city and Ghazni province (January 4, 1989).

Red Star: Armed formations headed by ringleader Haqqani are stepping up the blockade of Gardez—the provincial centre—and are impeding the city's supply of bread and necessities. A group of Foreign military Advisers who arrived from Pakistan in late December is co-ordinating and directing the combat operations of the opposition detachments (January 14, 1989).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: On December 25, Mujahideen made a massive attack on Kabul regime's military base at Khewa. A number of positions inside the garrison town were taken.

On December 27, Mujahideen attacked Ghulam Dag area of Chapparhar sub-district. They also fired rockets on Samerkhel with BM-12s killing ten regime officers and men. A tank was hit.

On December 29, 30 and 31, three military posts were wiped out in Surkh Rud and Dasht-e-Ghazi areas. Forty-five boxes of ammunition were seized.

On January 1, a column of 30 tanks while trying to enter Khewa to relieve the besieged garrison was brought under severe rocket attack. Six tanks were knocked out and the rest retreated. Thirty Mujahideen

and almost ten times that number of Kabuli soldiers and militiamen were killed in the fighting. A large number of others were taken prisoner.

On January 5 and 6, Soviet-made planes heavily bombarded rural areas of Khewa sub-division from where Kabuli forces had lately been dislodged.

On January 8, Mujahideen conducted a series of attacks on security posts guarding Jalalabad city. Some bombs were also exploded within the city walls, killing at least 5 soldiers and demolishing 2 buildings.

On January 9, Mujahideen clashed with regime troops in Goshta and Kama districts.

On January 12, a number of local Ningarhari families were seen trekking towards the Pakistani border in order to escape the consequences of war. Kama and Goshta districts had virtually been depopulated.

On January 13, Soviet-made Scud missiles were fired on Mujahideen targets in Shilman. Soviet-made jets also bombarded villages in Dara-i-Noor sub-district. Reports said a large number of rural dwellings were demolished and their inmates killed and wounded.

On January 14, more than 20 Afghan families comprising some 100 persons entered Pakistan via Torkham as refugees.

On January 15 and 16, fighting continued in the outskirts of Jalalabad focussing on Kama bridge, about 5 kilometres from the capital city of Ningarhar province.

On January 20, eight Mujahideen and a larger number of non-combatants were killed in regime aerial bombing in Chapparhar. On January 21, more than 50 regime troops were killed and wounded in fighting near Jalalabad. Among them were believed to be very senior officers of the First Afghan Army Corps.

VIRA: A report from Afghanistan says that about one thousand troops of the Kabul Communist regime surrendered to the Muslim Mujahideen during the last week. According to the report out of these troops six hundred are militiamen who have surrendered to the Mujahideen in Ningarhar province.

Another report from Ningarhar province says that the Mujahideen in the course of successful operations have captured two military posts in the province and shot down one MiG-7 plane of the Soviet troops. The report adds that the Mujahideen have also gained control over the strategic Torkham-Jalalabad Highway (News—Pushto: Jan. 15, 1989).

The Mujahideen have tightened the siege of Jalalabad. According to a report, the Mujahideen have taken positions at a distance of five kilometres from Jalalabad and were preparing for an offensive on

Jalalabad. According to the source a Council has been set up which will look after the security situation after the liberation of Jalalabad, the provincial headquarters of Ningarhar province.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan has said that Jalalabad has been under continuous attack of the Mujahideen. He expressed the hope that the city would be liberated before the withdrawal of the Soviets from Afghanistan (News—Pushto: January 21, 1989).

Radio Tehran: In a series of successful operations, the Afghan Mujahideen wiped out three security posts of the joint Soviet-Kabul troops in Surkhrud and Dasht-e-Kazi areas of Ningarhar province recently. Reports say that the Mujahideen captured a huge quantity of arms and ammunition in these operations (January 8, 1989).

Last week, more than one thousand Afghan government troops defected to Mujahideen in Ningarhar province. Reports reaching from Afghanistan says that in an operation, Afghan revolutionaries shot down a Soviet MiG-27 aircraft and liberated two military posts from Communists in Ningarhar province and on Pak-Afghan border near Jalalabad. Similarly, Afghan Mujahideen liberated seven military bases from the enemy in Baghlan province. During the operation eighteen people were killed and twenty others arrested. They also captured some tanks and military vehicles in the operation. In another operation carried out by Mujahideen in Herat province, thirty-nine people including ten military officials were killed. Besides fifteen armoured vehicles and trucks were also destroyed (News—Urdu: January 12, 1989).

BBC: The Soviet News Agency Tass says that the Afghan army has destroyed two Pakistan Air Force helicopters which landed in Afghanistan after a flight from Peshawar.

The agency said that the helicopters were carrying a group of Afghan rebels and foreign military advisers.

It said all those on board were killed as the Afghan armed forces attacked the landing site.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Government has denied a report carried by the Soviet news agency, Tass that the Afghan army destroyed two Pakistan Air Force helicopters which landed in Afghanistan (News—English: January 19, 1989).

VOA: Seventy-five government troops along with their weapons have defected to the Afghan Mujahideen side in Samarkhel area of Ningarhar province. Shah Mehmood Mian Khel from Peshawar reports:

A defecting soldier, Qadeem says that Kabul regime collected all the weapons from the troops stationed in Samar Khal garrison due to mistrust following the defection of seventy-five soldiers

and officers to the Mujahideen. He says that now all the weapons are in the custody of KHAD, Sarandoi and Militia. The soldier says that he had gone to Kabul on board a plane to bring food commodities on Jaddi 27. The soldiers in Balahisar garrison had held a demonstration on the same day and attacked a food stuff depot. The soldier adds that almost ninety soldiers and officers and four Soviet advisers were killed during fierce fighting between the demonstrating soldiers and Government troops. The food stuff depot was also burnt. The eye-witnesses say that Soviet jet planes severely bombarded Ghani Khal area on Jaddi 30 killing sixteen civilians.

On the other hand, Al-Bunyan news agency says that now it has been ascertained that fourteen Mujahideen were killed and twenty-three others wounded during capture of Goshta Uleswali. In its other report, the source says that a number of families consisting of one hundred and twenty members migrated to Pakistan via Torkham from Ningarhar on Jaddi 27. These fresh refugees say that situation in Jalalabad is worsening and there is acute shortage of food commodities. They say that members of KHAD are breaking into the houses of people during night and snatching every thing from them. They say that they had bribed KHAD officials to allow them to leave the city.

The Al-Bunyan news agency says that high ranking officials of Kabul regime withdrew their families from Jalalabad and sent them to Kabul on Jaddi 27 due to deteriorated situation there. A large number of children and old men have died of diarrhoea in Jalalabad city (Jan. 24, 1989).

Today's American newspapers have dealt with the fresh refugees influx due to the Afghanistan situation. Akhtar Abbas presents the details of the report:

The daily Washington Post's correspondent James Rupert has said in his report sent from Peshawar that Mujahideen have further tightened their siege of Jalalabad city of Afghanistan and war operations are at their peak in suburbs of the city of about five lakh population. As a result the civilian population is again fleeing and taking shelter in Pakistan. Now they have joined millions of people who are living in Pakistan after escaping from the Afghanistan Government. The correspondent James Rupert writes that the Director of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Anthony Land (ph) disclosed during a discussion that in some cases the fresh refugees have to face great difficulties, because the Afghan refugees already living in Pakistan had refused to rehabilitate the fresh refugees near them by describing them as traitors

and the UNHCR had to make alternate arrangements. James Rupert writes that Director of Afghan Information Centre in Peshawar told him that hundreds of government troops were killed and thousands of civilian fled away when Afghan Mujahideen attacked Kheva town near Jalalabad. A number of them fled to Pakistan. Similar incidents had happened when Mujahideen captured Asadabad, the capital of Kunar province. James Rupert writes that an official of Pakistan Refugees Commission, Shah Naman, told him that about fifty families have been entering Pakistan daily through Khyber Pass for the last several weeks (January 24, 1989).

AIR: In Afghanistan, government troops have regained control over the region around Jalalabad. This followed fierce clashes in which four hundred and seventy rebels were killed in the eastern province of Ningarhar. Reporting this, Radio Kabul said the security situation in the province is now fully under control (News—English: Jan. 22, 1989).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that despite ceasefire proclaimed by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan from January 1, 1989 the extremist groups have made open violations of the ceasefire in the country today.

According to a report, armed groups affiliated with Gulbadin extremist band, first violated the ceasefire at 7.50 a.m. today and by using heavy arms opened fire at the residential areas in Deh Bala and Goshta Woleswalis of Ningarhar province. Extremists also attacked the security posts in Goshta Woleswali of Ningarhar province at 4.00 p.m. The units of the Armed Forces in Ningarhar province, with a view to maintaining peace and protecting life of the people and on the basis of the declaration of the Afghan Government retaliated and inflicted deadly blows on the positions of the opponent groups. As a result of the action by Armed Forces, eight extremists were killed and seven others were injured (News—Pushto: January 1, 1989).

As a result of other operations by the armed forces of the country, in areas belonging to Ningarhar province tens of extremists were killed and a number of others were seriously injured. The Bakhtar Information Agency reports that in this operation one of the ring-leaders of the extremist group, Karim was killed. In both the operations armed forces seized a big quantity of arms and ammunition from the enemy (News—English: January 16, 1989).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the heroic Armed Forces in the course of successful operations in the outskirts of Kama and Goshta Woleswalis of Ningarhar province, have wiped out 431 extremist elements. In these operations a number of

foreign advisers were killed and two ammunition depots were destroyed.

According to another report, the Afghan Armed Forces have also carried out successful operations against the armed extremists in Qandahar, Herat, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunar, Paktiya, Zabul and Kabul provinces. In these operations scores of extremists were killed and injured (News—Pushto: January 21, 1989).

The extremists have stepped up their subversive activities against their countrymen with the help of reinforcement being provided by their Pakistani supporters. They are pushing the youth into the war by duping them about final victory.

The extremists sustained heavy casualties in Kama and Goshta districts of Ningarhar province. Later, they killed hundreds of civilians there and injured a large number of others. The bodies of majority of those killed were not handed over to their families. That is why members of the bereaved families are staging protest demonstrations in the refugee camps. Majority of them come to Torkham border demanding from the ringleaders the dead bodies of their relatives (News—Urdu: January 23, 1989).

Speaking about the situation in Ningarhar province, the Governor of that area has said that although the terrorist groups, which are equipped by the United States with sophisticated weapons, have tried their best to capture various parts of the province, yet the courageous security forces have foiled their attempts and killed a number of these terrorists; along with their Pakistani and Arab military advisers. He said four hundred and twenty terrorists have been wiped out only in the Kama Ulaswali.

The recent crushing defeats of the extremist groups have not only annoyed the members of these groups but also created concern for US and Pakistani military advisers. The Pakistani authorities and the leaders of the Seven Party Alliance are reported to have advised the terrorists to bury their killed accomplices in the battle-field and not bring them to Pakistan because it is not possible due to the vigilance of the Afghan armed forces. The Governor of Ningarhar maintained that a number of extremist elements have been captured while attempting to launch attacks on Jalalabad. He said that now the military and political situation is normal in Ningarhar province. The Governor said that units of the Afghan Army are inflicting crushing blows on the enemy wherever they raise their head and the terrorists have not been able to take even one town of the province. Describing the reports of Western radio stations about the situation in Jalalabad as false, he said, that life is normal there and the people do not feel any danger to their lives and property because the Afghan security forces are defending the peace

of the people courageously (Talk—Pushto: January 26, 1989).

Red Star: In Ningarhar province, the opposition is increasing shipments of heavy weapons and ammunition from the central depots of Peshawar to the province's territory. Thus 20-30 trucks a day are being sent to the Hazar-e-Nau region, which is 47m south-east of Jalalabad, from the depots in the Pakistani city of Landi Kotal. At the same time the opposition is activating agitation and propaganda work among the inhabitants of captured district centres, promising the peasants liberal aid in restoring their housing and developing agriculture (January 14, 1989).

Radio Moscow: An Afghan military spokesman today said that two military helicopters of Pakistan violated the Afghan air space on Wednesday. They landed at Yasin Baba area and brought foreign advisers and representatives of Afghan opposition from Peshawar. In a bid to stop this aggressive step, the Afghan government forces destroyed the helicopters killing all the people on board (News—Urdu: Jan. 19, 1989).

In a separate development in Ningarhar province, government troops have dealt the heaviest strike on the rebel groups lead by Hikmatyar (News—English: January 22, 1989).

Kunar

Radio Tehran: Soviet planes have bombed the Kunar area on the Pak-Afghan border as a result of which many people were martyred and injured. The reports said that after liberation of Kunar by the Muslim revolutionaries, the Soviet aircrafts have been bombarding it aerially (News—Urdu: January 11, 1989).

Nooristan

Nil report.

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: On December 27, Mujahideen made a daring rocket attack on a security post within the four walls of the capital city of Faizabad, Badakhshan province. More than 20 regime soldiers were believed killed.

On January 18, Mujahideen captured a security post in the outskirts of Faizabad. Forty-four soldiers, including 4 officers were murdered. A quantity of arms and ammunition was also taken possession of.

Kabul Times: Other warmonger extremist groups led by Bassir

Khalid subjected different areas of the Badakhshan province to heavy weapons' fire (January 5, 1989).

Radio Kabul: Badakhshan: As a result of crushing blows by the armed forces on the gathering places of the extremists in the vicinity of the district of Shahr-e-Bozorg, four warmongering extremists were killed and three others were wounded.

Moscow sources: Ahmad Shah Masud, military leader of the Islamic Afghan association, is hurriedly uniting under his command all Islamic Afghan association forces operating on the province's territory and is also seeking to enlist to his side the Islamic party of Afghanistan's Armed Formations in the northern regions of the country (Red Star: January 14, 1989).

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: On December 24, Mujahideen conducted a powerful attack on Soviet-Kabul army camp at Chah-e-Aab on the bank of Ammu river. Hundreds of enemy troops were killed, wounded and captured. An estimated 5,000 Mujahideen took part in this operation. The long and impressive list of items taken possession of included tanks, transport vehicles and guns of various descriptions.

On December 25, Mujahideen stormed and eliminated a security post near Bagh Zakhira, a suburb of the provincial capital, Taloqan.

On December 27, an aircraft straffing Mujahideen positions in a Taloqan suburb was shot down. For previous some days the Soviets had been regularly sending out sorties from USSR territories across the Ammu river to bombard Mujahideen.

On December 31, two companies of Kabul army troops defected and joined Mujahideen ranks (somewhere) in Takhar province.

VIRA: A report from Takhar province says that Mujahideen in their struggle against the Soviet-Kabul troops, in Dasht-e-Qala area, Takhar province, captured five military posts of the Soviet-Kabul regime troops and made 210 Communist troops captive including four spies.

According to the report in the operation four jeeps carrying arms supplies were also seized by the Afghan Mujahideen (News-Persian: January 7, 1989).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: On January 1, Mujahideen fired rockets on Kunduz airport, hitting a helicopter on the runway.

On January 18, Mujahideen intensified attacks on Kabul regime troops and establishments around Kunduz city, even as Soviet-made

aircraft bombarded them intermittently.

On January 18 and 19, Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul forces remained locked in bloody battles for the possession of the Kunduz airport and city. The Mujahideen were already in the airport area.

On the night of 21 and 22, Mujahideen made another determined attack on Soviet-Kabul positions in the airport and Kunduz city areas. Both sides claimed having taken the better of their adversaries; but it was clear that the guerillas could not hold their possessions for very long after 22nd January.

On January 23, a body of Mujahideen returning to Takhar province from Kunduz was attacked by helicopter-borne commandos. One of the helicopters was shot down and the Mujahideen returned to their bases.

Kabul Radio claimed that they had killed over 400 Mujahideen including commanders, in this second large scale battle for Kunduz. This was denied by Mujahideen who however reported only the loss of commander Maulavi Abdul Fattah and some other fighters. Mujahideen also said they had killed more than 150 regime troops and destroyed atleast three Soviet-made aircraft.

On January 23 and 24, Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Khanabad. Here the Soviets brought in aircraft and bombarded village suspected of harbouring freedom fighters. Forty-two non-combatants were reported killed.

VIRA: Reports say fierce fighting continues between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops in the northern provinces of Afghanistan near the Soviet borders. The Mujahideen are reported to have shot down a Kabul regime aircraft while it was taking off from Kunduz airport on January 1 (January 16, 1989).

Afghan Mujahideen sources in Islamabad said the Afghan Mujahideen had gained control of Kunduz airport destroying three aircrafts (News-Persian: January 23, 1989).

Radio Tehran: Fierce fighting is going on between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops near the Soviet borders. The Afghan Mujahideen have announced that they have shot down three aircrafts.

AIR: In Afghanistan, over three hundred rebels were killed when they were attempting to capture Kunduz city. According to delayed reports, the offensive was launched on Tuesday (News-Urdu: Jan. 20, 1989).

Radio Kabul: According to a report as a result of mopping-up operation by armed forces in the Kunduz province tens of warmongers including an Arab adviser were killed and three hideouts of theirs were

destroyed. Another report says that as a result of crushing blows by the armed forces in Morcha Pass seven extremists were killed and a large quantity of arms belonging to them was seized (News—English: Jan. 11, 1989).

Kabul Times: A group of highway robbers connected with extremist groups, who wanted to loot the property of the people on the Highway of Kunduz-Shibirghan was crushed by the security forces.

As a result of this operation 55 extremists including their three ringleaders by the names of Hamidullah, Sattar and Mir Afzal were killed and two mortars, one doshaka, two rocket launchers belonging to them were destroyed in this operation (January 1, 1989).

According to another report dozens of the extremists including an Arab adviser were killed and three hideouts destroyed in an operation conducted by the units of the armed forces in Chardara and Khanabad districts, Kunduz province (January 10, 1989).

Radio Moscow: There has been fierce fighting in a number of Afghan provinces between government troops and the rebels including Kabul province. The country's Military Command says more than seventy rebels have been killed. The Commander of rebel forces of the Opposition Islamic Party of Afghanistan, Bashir is said to have been killed during the rebels abortive attempt to seize the town of Kunduz (January 22, 1989).

In Afghanistan, the Governor of Kunduz province General Abdullah has said that in early hours of January 16, more than three thousand rebels launched an offensive on security posts and the airport in the area. The extremists fired two thousand five hundred rockets on Kunduz within three days. General Abdullah said this in an interview with the newspaper PIAM. Several civilians were killed and twenty-five others seriously wounded as a result.

Three days later government troops launched a counter offensive. The extremists fled leaving behind about four hundred dead bodies. Casualties included several foreign military advisers (News—English: January 24, 1989).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: On January 2, Mujahideen shelled Soviet army base at Qila Gai, causing heavy human and material losses. An arms and ammunition depot was also blasted.

On January 3 to 5, Mujahideen captured 7 military posts set up between Shehr-e-Nau and Shehr-e-Qadeem of Baghlan province. Twenty regime troopers were captured and a number of others killed and wounded, against 4 Mujahideen martyred.

On January 11, Mujahideen attacked Qila Gai. The Soviets responded by aially bombarding Mujahideen positions.

On January 13, Soviet-Kabul troops tried to reopen the stretch of road between Shehr-e-Nau and Shehr-e-Qadeem. The attempt was frustrated. The Soviet lost a tank.

On January 14, Mujahideen ambushed a body of regime troops at Tari Khubkh, killing a number of soldiers.

On January 18, Mujahideen attacked a large military convoy near Pul-e-Khumri area. A number of vehicles were captured. Mujahideen also stormed and took a security post in the same area.

On January 21, Mujahideen damaged oil pipeline at two places north of Salang Tunnels.

During the 3rd and 4th weeks of January, Soviet-made aircrafts heavily bombarded Mujahideen positions and inhabited villages suspected of supporting Mujahideen on both sides of the Salang Highway. Non-combatant locals suffered heavy casualties as a result of this bombardment.

The Soviet also fired Scud missiles on Ahmed Shah Masud's bases in Bazarrak, Pashghor and Khinj. At Khinj some 70 persons, among them women and children, were killed.

On January 28, Soviet-Kabul forces lost two tanks during fighting in the twin cities of Baghlan new and Baghlan old.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen shot down a helicopter of the Communist troops in Doshakh area in Baghlan province last week. Nine persons on board the helicopter were killed (News—Persian: January 9, 1989).

According to a report from Islamabad the Muslim Mujahideen in a series of successful operations captured seven military posts of the joint Soviet-Afghan troops in Baghlan province recently. The report added that in these operations eighteen troops of the enemies were killed and twenty others were taken prisoner. Two tanks, four tractors and twenty klashinkovs were also seized by the Mujahideen (January 13, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters, in a missile attack on a base of Soviet troops near Puj-e-Khumri in Baghlan province, destroyed five military aircrafts. They also destroyed an ammunition depot at the base and killed or injured a number of usurper troops (January 11, 1989).

Radio Bangladesh: Mujahideen have shot down a Kabul government fighter plane in Baghlan province of Afghanistan. The plane was shot down by anti-aircraft gun fire while it was bombarding an area near Baghlan. Several houses were destroyed during this attack (News—

Urdu: January 20, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The members of the extremist Gulbadin Band, headed by Mamur Ghayur and Dr. Esmail have breached the ceasefire in Baghlan city suburbs by launching heavy weapons attacks against residential areas (News—Dari: January 3, 1989).

During a mopping-up operation by the security forces in Baghlan province, seven extremists were killed and seven wounded (News—Dari: January 25, 1989).

Samangan

Radio Kabul: The press office of the Presidential Palace quoting reliable sources of the armed forces reports that the units and detachments of the armed forces inflicted crushing blows on the enemies of peace and tranquility in the outskirts of Samangan during the past twenty-four hours, causing heavy casualties to the extremists (News—Pushto: January 23, 1989).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On January 1, Mujahideen attacked regime security posts in Mazar-e-Sharif.

On January 2, Mujahideen eliminated a security post in Paikan. A number of soldiers were killed.

On January 14, fighter-bombers bombarded Mujahideen positions near Hoza. Thirteen persons were killed and over 50 injured. These aircrafts had flown from bases in the Soviet territory.

On January 19 and 24, Mujahideen attacked military transport on the highway approaching Mazar-e-Sharif from Kabul. A number of trucks were hit and others captured.

VIRA: During operations in Balkh and Herat provinces over the past ten days, Mujahideen killed seventeen Kabul regime troops. The Mujahideen also captured five enemy troops in Dawlatabad Uleswali of Balkh province. Two Mujahideen were martyred (News—Pushto: January 3, 1989).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: On December 30, Mujahideen destroyed two military posts near Sozgalam. Soviet-made aircrafts bombarded villages in Jarghan and Alef Sufaid areas. A number of houses were demolished and non-combatants killed.

On January 6, a senior militia commander in Andkhoy district defected and joined Mujahideen.

Militia Commander Rahim Pahlawan defected and came along to

Mujahideen with 70 of his men in trucks full of arms, ammunition and food.

Radio Tehran: An officer of the Afghan secret service along with seventy subordinates have joined the Mujahideen in Jozjan province. They handed over a huge quantity of arms recently (News—Pushto: January 8, 1989).

Radio Kabul: A group of thirty-five counter-revolutionaries headed by Allah Mohammad who were carrying on armed activities in Jozjan today announced support to the national reconciliation policy and abandoned armed activities. At a ceremony arranged to welcome these compatriots, the group leader in his speech expressed readiness for all out cooperation to bring an end to civil war in the country (January 7, 1989).

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: On December 28, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Sar-e-Pul district, destroying 4 of them. A security post at Baghavi was also destroyed. Six regime soldiers, including an officer were captured.

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: On January 9, Mujahideen fired rockets on regime troops and establishments in the provincial capital, Maimana.

On January 19, Mujahideen clashed with regime troops (somewhere) near Maimana. A tank was destroyed and 20 soldiers killed. Mujahideen also lost 2 fighters. Other reports said Mujahideen had attacked military posts in Shereen Tagab district.

Radio Kabul: The Afghan armed forces conducted successful operations against extremist groups in Faryab province (News—Pushto: January 22, 1989).

Badghis

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen attacked a number of posts of the Communist regime in Kadees sub-division of Badghis province on December 4, as a result of which two posts of the enemy were destroyed while eight militiamen were killed and 18 others injured.

Similarly, the police commander of Kadees sub-division, Kamal was killed and a huge quantity of enemy arms and ammunition was seized by the Afghan Mujahideen.

The enemy planes bombarded the positions of the Mujahideen in which 15 Mujahideen were martyred and 30 others injured.

In the beginning the Communist captured the positions of the

Mujahideen but in the battle the Mujahideen shot down an enemy plane and also destroyed 17 tanks and two trucks (News—Persian: January 2, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The Defence Section of Bakhtar news agency reports that in violation of the ceasefire, the Afghan terrorists have once again shelled many areas in Badghis, and eight other provinces today.

Eighty-eight terrorists were killed and twenty-seven others injured when the Afghan security forces opened fire in self defence. The security forces have also captured a huge quantity of arms (News—Pushto: January 5, 1989).

An armed-group of hundred and fifty men together with eight hundred un-armed individuals who had been engaged in armed activities joined the process of national reconciliation policy in Badghis province on January 9. BIA reports that in a meeting which was held on this occasion a number of clergymen spoke about the peaceful objectives of the Republic of Afghanistan (News—English: January 11, 1989).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: On December 4, Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in Shaghalian, Ghoryan and Zendajan districts. They also hit a convoy on Herat-Islam Qala road, killing 17 troops. A tank and two military vehicles were also destroyed.

On January 7, Mujahideen attacked Shindand airbase with long-range rockets. Two aircrafts, some tanks and a thermal power generating plant were hit.

On January 14, Mujahideen attacked a convoy on Herat-Qandahar road. Thirteen trucks were destroyed.

On January 18, Mujahideen attacked military posts in Pashtoon Zarghoon district. A number of soldiers were killed and wounded.

On January 19, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Jarkan, a suburb of Herat city. Seventeen soldiers, including an officer, were killed and 4 others captured.

On January 21, a militia commander (Sultan) surrendered to Mujahideen (somewhere) near Shindand.

On January 23, another militia commander surrendered to Mujahideen in the same area close to Shindand airbase.

On January 27 and 28, Russian-made aeroplanes bombarded Mujahideen positions and villages in Shahrak district, resulting in heavy casualties.

VIRA: Mujahideen attacked five posts of the Secret Service of the Kabul Communist regime (KHAD) in Chaghalian area of Herat city. During the operation five Communists were killed and eight klashinkovs and Soviet military vehicle were seized by the Mujahideen (News—Pushto: January 13, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen in a series of successful operations have killed thirty Kabul-Soviet troops including a Soviet Deputy Commander in Ghorian area of Herat province. During the operations three tanks, an armoured vehicle and a motorcycle of the Communist troops were destroyed. According to the reports reaching here the Mujahideen have been continuing their efforts since Monday last to break the siege of the joint troops in Herat province. The Communist troops during the siege have subjected the Kuskh and Noabadan areas of Injeel Wolesswali of Herat province to brutal attacks (News—Pushto: Jan. 22, 1989).

VOA: News reports from Mujahideen Commanders say Soviet troops are evacuating the huge military airbase of Shindand in western Afghanistan. VOA's John Shultz reports from our Islamabad Bureau that Soviet diplomats and their families are also leaving for home:

The news just in says the evacuation of Shindand base started on or about January 17 and by Sunday an estimated five thousand Soviet troops had departed by convoys. Some Soviet security posts around the major western city of Herat have also been abandoned. According to the Geneva Agreements, the last of the estimated fifty thousand Soviet troops should also be withdrawn by February 15. At Shindand, Afghan military units have started moving in (January 22, 1989).

Radio Kabul: According to another report sixteen extremists were killed in another operation in Injeel Wolesswali of Herat province. Six extremists were arrested with different kind of weapons. In this operation one gun, two rocket launchers and four hideouts of the enemy were destroyed (January 8, 1989).

A report from Herat province states that during an operation by the armed forces in parts of that province, 18 extremists were crushed and a number of others were wounded (January 12, 1989).

The military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency reports that as a result of a bomb blast in Herat city, seventeen people were injured. According to the report, the bomb was planted in a vehicle (News—Pushto: January 11, 1989).

TASS: In Herat and its suburbs, security forces conducted round-ups and searches to uncover terrorists that had penetrated the city. Dozens of sub-machine-guns, 53 cartridge boxes, eight boxes of shells for recoilless rifles and mountain guns, 226 hand grenades, and almost

100 kilograms of narcotics were seized (January 25, 1989).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: On December 29, Mujahideen shot down a jet fighter near Farah city.

On January 4, Soviet-made aircraft carried out heavy bombing around Shindand airbase, where Mujahideen were active.

On January 12, Mujahideen "recaptured" Bakwa district. Here they seized a number of tanks among other items of arms and ammunition and food. Similarly, a large number of regime soldiers surrendered to them.

On January 21, Soviet-made aircrafts bombed Delaram district. A number of dwellings were demolished and people killed and wounded.

On January 26, a military convoy proceeding to Herat was attacked. An armoured vehicle was destroyed along with 3 trucks.

On January 27, Mujahideen hit another convoy near Farah.

VIRA: A report from Farah province says that the Afghan Mujahideen attacked positions of the Kabul regime troops in that province on 3rd of Jaddi. The Mujahideen inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the enemy in these attacks and set ablaze three enemy vehicles loaded with ammunition. Twelve Kabul regime troops surrendered to the Mujahideen while a number of others were killed. A large number of tanks and vehicles were also destroyed.

In retaliation Soviet aircrafts bombed the surrounding villages (News—Pushko: January 5, 1989).

Radio Kabul: As a result of crushing blows by the armed forces on the gathering place of the extremists in the region of Delaram, nine extremists were killed and 22 were badly injured. In the course of this operation, 20 anti-vehicle mines belonging to the extremists were discovered and defused.

Four Pakistani Advisers came to Farah province together with members of the extremist group of Gulbadin to cause fear, terror, and destruction. One of them was recently killed while planting a mine. As a result of an explosion caused by this mine, another one of them together with three members of the aforementioned group were badly injured (News—Dari: January 28, 1989).

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan

Nil report.

Ghor

Kabul Times: According to a report, 13 extremist elements were killed and 20 others wounded as a result of internecine fights among the extremists in Shakardara district of Kabul province and Kohsan and Cheghcheran districts of Ghor province (January 8, 1989).

Uruzgan

Mujahideen sources: On January 11, Mujahideen hit a Soviet aeroplane while it was trying to land at Tarin Kot airstrip.

On January 14, Mujahideen fired rockets on Tarin Kot airport. A number of soldiers and government functionaries were killed and wounded. Soviet-made aircrafts bombed Mujahideen positions in the area.

VIRA: A report from Uruzgan province says that on Jaddi 10, the Mujahideen attacked Tarin Kot airport, as a result of which three troops of Kabul regime were killed and two were taken prisoner. Similarly, in the course of the Mujahideen's operations a part of the runway, and airport terminal was damaged. During the clashes three Mujahideen were also martyred.

Kabul Times: A report from Uruzgan province says that on Thursday night, units and detachments of the armed forces stationed in Tarin Kot city of Uruzgan took retaliatory measures against the war-monger extremist elements' attacks who attempted to disturb peace and security in the outskirts of Tarin Kot.

In this operation which was carried out by the operative units and detachments of Tsarandoy, a number of extremists ringleaders were suppressed, and one rocket launcher and 2 machine-guns were seized (January 7, 1989).

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: On December 27, Mujahideen fired 50 rounds of ground-to-ground rockets on military establishments in Qargha, Darulamal and Khair Khana districts of Kabul province. This was to mark the completion of nine years of Soviet invasion.

On December 31, Mujahideen fired rockets on targets in Darul Amman area of Kabul. They also attacked a convoy passing through Paghman district.

On January 8, Mujahideen shot down a jet fighter in Paghman valley.

On January 10, Mujahideen allowed trucks carrying food to pass

through the bottlenecks on the Salang Highway to Kabul. About 2 million residents of Kabul were reported to be suffering from acute shortage of food, fuel and other consumer goods. Some Mujahideen commanders however said the Soviets were trying to carry weapons in trucks and lorries meant for food transportation.

On January 14, a big fire broke out in an ammunition depot in Balahisar in Kabul city. This started with a loud explosion and continued to rage for a long time.

On January 26, Mujahideen conducted successful operations in Sarobi district lying on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. At least 3 security posts were overrun and a large number of regular soldiers and militia-men were killed and wounded. Three tanks were also destroyed.

Radio Tehran: The Soviet Television network reported yesterday that the Afghan capital, Kabul has come under the siege of the Afghan Mujahideen. The Soviet TV accused the Afghan Mujahideen of blocking supply of food stuff to Kabul. But a source of the Afghan Mujahideen based in Peshawar said that food supply route to that city has been opened but the Soviets are trying to supply ammunition to Najibullah regime instead of food stuff and essential commodities to the people.

The source added that although the Soviet Union is pulling out its troops from Afghanistan, yet it is also trying to pave the way for the survival and further strengthening of Najibullah government by creating terror and harassment among the people even if it is at the cost of the lives of the inhabitants of Kabul and other Afghan cities (News—Pushto: January 23, 1989).

Some leaders of the Afghan Mujahideen have described food shortage in Kabul as a fictitious measure adopted by the Kabul government so as to malign Muslim Mujahideen. In an interview, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani has said that food shortage in Kabul is a conspiracy of Soviet and Kabul governments to cover large-scale arms supply to Najib regime. A field commander of the Mujahideen Mr. Abdul Haq who is currently active in suburbs of Kabul says that Kabul government is trying to create a situation to show to the world that Soviet troops withdrawal will create difficulties in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, fifteen thousand Soviet troops are reported to have left Kabul and fifteen thousand more will leave the city next week (News—Urdu: January 25, 1989).

Tens of people were injured as a result of two separate bomb explosions in Kabul yesterday. The bombs were planted in carts (News Pushto: January 31, 1989).

BBC: BBC correspondent in Kabul, Liz Ducet quotes the Afghan Deputy Trade Minister, Fateh Mohammad Tareen as saying that the

present food situation is the worst since the 1972 drought in Afghanistan. However, in his interview with the BBC, Fateh Mohammad Tareen said that the regime has been able to relieve acute shortage of food to some extent.

He said food shortages are felt during winter months when the Salang Highway is covered with snow. He also said that the Mujahideen have enhanced their attacks and they also stop caravans carrying food supplies. He said about twenty thousand government and private containers, loaded with ghee, flour and rice are lying stranded in Hairatan near the Soviet border. Mr. Tareen said several lorries loaded with commodities have arrived in Kabul during the past several weeks. Mr. Tareen further said that a famine-like condition has cropped up. He said he was sure that the situation will improve when the two hundred lorries escorted by Afghan regime troops arrive in Kabul within the next two days. The Minister confirmed that people are standing in queues for want of bread and other essential commodities. He said a number of children have been found reselling commodities they receive on higher prices. However, he expressed sympathy for these children who hail from poor families.

Mr. Tareen said the government will be compelled to adopt more strict measures if the guerillas do not lift the blockade. Nevertheless, he said they would prefer talks for resolving the problem. He hoped the guerillas would ultimately give up their negative attitude (Current Affairs—Pushto: January 10, 1989).

In an interview to BBC, an Afghan guerilla commander has expressed the hope that Kabul city will be saved from bloodshed and destruction after the withdrawal of the remaining Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The Hizb-e-Islami (Khalis group) Commander, Abdul Haq said in Pakistan that he had talked to other guerilla Commanders on the matter and he is hopeful that these Commanders would be ready to unitedly work for saving Kabul city from destruction (News—Urdu: January 14, 1989).

There is growing international concern about the situation in the beleaguered Afghan capital Kabul, with Soviet transport aircraft flying emergency supplies to combat desperate shortages.

The West German Embassy has been closed because of the deteriorating security situation, the first Western embassy to do so. Others are operating with the reduced staffs.

The British Government has already strongly advised its nationals to leave without delay.

International aid organisations have told all but the essential

foreign staff to leave Afghanistan while flights are still available.

Soviet transport planes began flying in food and fuel today in an attempt to maintain stocks which have dwindled because normal supply routes have been blocked by Afghan rebels and bad weather.

A correspondent for the BBC in Kabul says the two million or so inhabitants are living through the worst winter they can remember.

Heavily guarded road convoys are still managing to reach Kabul but are making little impact on shortages (News—English: Jan. 21, 1989).

The Russians have said the authorities in Afghanistan are partly to be blamed for the desperate food shortages in the capital Kabul.

Soviet Television said the situation in the city besieged by rebels and cut off by heavy snow has become critical. One reason the Television said was irresponsibility and inefficiency of Afghan authorities in charge of food supplies. There has also been sabotage by some people in the administrative apparatus.

Earlier one of the senior officers of the Soviet High Command in Afghanistan, General Levsligrav (ph) supported reports on Soviet Television that the Afghan authorities are partly to be blamed for food shortages in the capital Kabul.

General Levsligrav told foreign journalists that people responsible for ordering food supplies have not done so in time. He said traders were also hoarding food to try to push up prices.

General Levsligrav said there were now enough supplies in Kabul but they are not being properly distributed.

Soviet planes have begun bringing in flour from the Soviet Union and the daily airlift will continue for the rest of this week (News—English-Urdu: January 23, 1989).

VOA: In Afghanistan, the Najibullah regime is making preparations for the final withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country. According to Irfan Ghazi's report from Islamabad, all the Soviet Advisers have left the capital, Kabul. But the beginning of the final phase of the pull back of Soviet forces, is not expected before Sunday the 15th January. Here is Afzal Rehman with more details of the report just received:

Western diplomats in Islamabad say that Najibullah government is implementing its strategy named 'Qala-e-Mustehkam' to fortify Kabul. They say that under this policy, Kabul has been divided into eleven security zones and in view of expected battles in the streets holes have been made in the walls of some houses for exit. According to sources, 5,000 commandos, trained in Laghman province, have been deployed in the city.

Other reports point out that President Najibullah, who is accused of exercising most reconciliatory attitude towards the Mujahideen, has also decided to fight till the last. The experts say that fortification of Kabul has diminished Mujahideen's hopes that they would gain control of Kabul in a peaceful manner after the return of Soviet forces. Some Afghan sources claim that Najibullah government possesses weapons in sufficient quantities to fight the war for another six months. However, the official Kabul Times recently published articles pointed out that many people instead of being loyal to the army of the ruling party, have joined city's defence forces only for the sake of money and rest.

Meanwhile, Western diplomats' reports say that the return of injured Soviet soldiers and medical staff is continuing from Kabul by air. On January 4, the Soviet military hospital was handed to the Afghan government army. The sources say that almost all the Soviet military advisers have now returned home. According to diplomats, two military convoys were seen on the Salang Highway moving towards the north on 5th and 8th January. When enquired as to where they were going, the troops replied, "Tashkent" (Radio Report—Urdu: January 10, 1989).

Foreign embassies in Kabul are continuing to secure the missions as diplomats from United States and several other countries are preparing to leave the Afghan capital.

Austria and Japan have become the latest to close their missions, following the United States, Britain, France, Italy and West Germany.

Reports from the region say Embassies are using half inch thick steel gates and barbed wire to protect their buildings. The situation is reported to be deteriorating suddenly as the Soviet Union moves towards complete withdrawal of its troops by February 15th and Mujahideen insurgents close-in on the Afghan capital.

Iran, where more than ten lakh Afghan refugees are living, has said that she would keep her embassy in Kabul open. Other Muslim and Middle East countries are making emergency programmes for security of their buildings (News—English-Urdu: Jan. 29, 1989).

Radio Beijing: Four people were reportedly killed and nine others wounded during a rocket attack on the Afghan capital, Kabul on Monday.

Reports said the Afghan Muslim guerillas were suspected to have launched the attack. However, some diplomats in Kabul said that the rockets might have been fired by some elements in the Kabul regime government, in an attempt to pressure the Soviet Union to delay its troops withdrawal from Afghanistan (News—English: Jan. 18, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The timely seizure of twenty ground-to-ground missiles by officials of National Security Ministry prevented tragic events in Kabul city today. Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency reports that the missiles were planted by the extremists in Pul-e-Charkhi area targetted at the residential areas of Kabul city (News—Pushto: January 11, 1989).

The criminal extremists by firing four ground-to-ground missiles on the residential areas of Kabul city today, committed another unpardonable crime against our peace-loving people.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the rockets landed in Qala-e-Zaman Khan, Bibi Mahro and Yakatoot areas of Kabul city, as a result of which five persons were martyred and eight others were injured (News—Pushto: January 16, 1989).

Transportation and delivery of foodstuff, consumer goods and kerosene oil to Kabul city through Salang-Hiratan highway is continuing. About 158 transport vehicles carrying consumer goods and oil products arrived in Kabul today.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that traffic has been resumed on the highway and the Armed Forces have undertaken necessary measures to maintain security along the highway (News—Pushto: January 16, 1989).

The plan for economic blockade and siege of Kabul city and some other provinces, which was chalked out by the American and Pakistani military advisers and was intended to be implemented through the Afghan extremist groups was foiled by the Afghan heroic Armed Forces and their Soviet friends. Under the plan, besides, arms and ammunition, Pakistan and America provided huge amounts of money to the Afghan terrorist groups through which food grains and other essential commodities were purchased on very high prices. Later the food grains and the items of daily use were hoarded with a view to creating artificial shortages in the cities. In this way, wheat, rice, flour, pulses, sugar and other commodities disappeared from the markets all of a sudden. As a result of such inhuman activities, the citizens of Kabul, Jalalabad and some other areas, faced great hardships and difficulties. Incidentally due to heavy snow-fall in Kabul and Salang and Mahipar highways, all the major roads leading to the capital also remained closed. At the same time the terrorists and bandits started looting vehicles carrying fuel and food grains to Kabul. However, the brave people of Kabul faced this difficult situation.

Simultaneously with the economic blockade of Kabul, the military helicopters of Pakistan also started aggression on Ningarhar province. Pakistani helicopters airlifted and dropped Pakistani, American and

Arab advisers alongwith a number of ringleaders of the Afghan terrorist groups in Afghanistan. But the heroic and vigilant Armed Forces destroyed two helicopters in Yasin Baba area of Ningarhar province and all the people on board were killed.

The heroic Afghan drivers are plying their vehicles on very dangerous highways and carrying food grains, fuel and essential commodities to Kabul and other areas of Afghanistan. Now the shortage of food grains and essential commodities in Kabul and other cities has come to an end and every thing is available in sufficient quantities. Moreover, the hoarders were arrested and the food grains hidden by them were seized by the government. The noble people of Pakistan should know the fact that the Pakistan Government particularly the Military Generals who in fact have an upperhand in Pakistan, are directly responsible for the present difficulties of the Afghans (Commentary—Pushto: January 22, 1989).

Radio Moscow: A major terrorist act has been averted at the airport of the Afghan capital. According to Radio Kabul a time bomb planted by extremists in a crowded hall at the airport building was discovered and defused. In another broadcast the Radio said that armed opposition formations have shelled the city of Kunduz with missiles. As a result there were casualties among the civil residents (News—English-Urdu: January 19, 1989).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: On December 30, Mujahideen damaged a portion of oil pipeline passing along the Salang Pass. They also fired rockets on military transport.

On January 4, Mujahideen attacked security posts near Charikar. Ten regime soldiers were killed.

On January 11, Mujahideen attacked a Soviet military convoy proceeding from Kabul towards the Soviet border. Atleast 2 vehicles were hit.

On January 15, Mujahideen attacked Soviet army camp in Sanjdara area. In the same area, 10 Kabul army men defected and joined the ranks of the Mujahideen. In yet another operation, Mujahideen captured 15 regime trucks.

On January 17-18, Mujahideen fired rockets on Bagram airbase. Part of a runway was damaged and some tanks, bulldozers and other vehicles were hit.

Also on 18 January, Russian-made aeroplanes severely bombarded Mujahideen positions in Panjsher, Parwan province.

On January 23, more than 200 civilians were killed in artillery and

aerial strikes against Mujahideen in areas just south of the Salang Tunnel. Reports said entire villages were wiped out in what appeared to be an attempt by the Soviets to make sure that their withdrawal route to the north was cleared of Mujahideen.

On January 25, Mujahideen attacked troops near Charikar. On the same day Soviet-made aircrafts carried out intensive aerial bombardment along the Salang Highway.

On January 27, the Soviets launched long-range rocket attacks against Mujahideen-held areas in Ashawa, Shattal, Panjsher and Salang from their bases in Bagram, Qalai Surkh and Jabal-us-Saraj. Simultaneously, Soviet-Kabul planes bombed villages and more than 600 non-combatant civilians were killed, while twice as many were injured. Many Mujahideen, including commanders, were killed encountering Russian commando units.

VIRA: A report from Parwan province says that the Muslim Mujahideen following a series of successful operations have captured Gulbahar Wolesswari of Parwan province. According to the report during these operations the Mujahideen have also shot down five fighter planes of the Communist regime (January 11, 1989).

A report says that hundreds of civilians were killed as a result of heavy shelling by the Soviet-Kabul troops near Salang pass (News—Persian: January 30, 1989).

Radio Tehran: Fierce clashes have been continuing between enemy forces and Afghan Mujahideen on the Salang highway for the last several days. Soviet official news agency TASS without giving any reference to Soviet troops in the clashes only said that resistance forces in Afghanistan were launching attacks against them every day (News—Urdu: January 14, 1989).

BBC: Western diplomatic sources in Pakistan say there has been a heavy fighting in Afghanistan where Soviet and Afghan forces have been trying to re-open the main supply route linking the Soviet Union to Kabul.

The sources quoting eye-witnesses said hundreds of civilians have been killed and entire villages wiped out during an artillery bombardment by Soviet and Afghan forces on Monday north and south of the strategic Salang Tunnel.

The sources quoted the witnesses as saying that Soviet tanks drove over the bodies of some of the victims lying on the Highway.

There has been no independent confirmation of the reports. No comment from the Soviet or official Afghan sources is available.

Guerilla attacks on the Salang Highway have led to severe food and fuel shortages in Kabul and caused the Soviet Union to airlift

supplies into the Afghan capital.

Moscow yesterday confirmed that the final stages of the Soviet troops withdrawal, which is due to be completed by February the fifteenth, have now begun (News—English: January 26, 1989).

We had an interview with Engineer Ishaq of the Jamiat-e-Islamic of Afghanistan. Here is the text of the interview. When we asked Engineer Ishaq to throw light on the on going fighting between the Kabul regime troops and the Mujahideen along the Salang Highway to which he replied that the Soviet and the Kabul regime troops jointly started these operations on twenty-third of this month. First they used aircrafts, artillery and rockets and then threw their land force and commandos into the area. Six hundred civilians were killed in these operations while twelve hundred others were injured. Besides, a number of villages and towns had also been destroyed. Answering the question as to how they have known about the killing of six hundred people, Engineer Ishaq said that they received this information from Ahmad Shah Masood, who is the commander of the Mujahideen in that area. He said that this report is quite authentic and even Radio Kabul had said that more than three hundred Mujahideen were killed in the Salang operations. Engineer Ishaq said that besides Salang, the Soviet-Kabul troops also carried out operations in other parts of northern Afghanistan. They fired fourteen rockets on Panjsher Valley, he said, adding that many people were killed in this shelling. He concluded that Ahmad Shah Masood will continue operation to avenge the killing of innocent people (Interview—Pushko: January 30, 1989).

The senior Soviet Military Commander in Kabul, General Boris Gramov, has denied reports from the State Department in Washington that the Soviet Union is using a scorched-earth policy and carrying out heavy bombing raids along the Salang Highway which leads to the Soviet border with Afghanistan. Liz Ducet attended his news conference in Kabul:

He dismissed the report by the State Department of scorched-earth policy as ridiculous. How can they say this, he demanded, when it is clear they have no officers in northern Afghanistan. But he said the Soviet Union has been carrying out some aerial bombing as part of its military operation and that it would stop when Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan next month as part of Moscow's commitment to the Geneva Accords. General Gramov admitted there had been heavy civilian casualties when Soviet and Afghan forces carried out artillery bombardments and air strikes last week against Mujahideen positions along the Salang, the main northern Highway. But he blamed the operation on Ahmad Shah

Masood, one of the strongest Mujahideen Commanders in the area. We tried to negotiate with him, he said, to give him control of certain parts of the Highway in exchange for letting vital supply convoys pass. The attack, he said, was directed against Masood's bases and weapon depots. The forty-seven years old officer, who fielded questions with great confidence from Western and Soviet journalists, confirmed that all Russian soldiers will be out of Afghanistan on schedule if not before February 15, but he would not be drawn into details on how the last soldiers would leave. Some are already going over land, he said, he would be the last soldier crossing the Soviet border. No troops would remain but there would be a small group of military advisers. The agreement between the two countries allowed for this, he said, a statement which will be opposed by the United States which sees military advisers as a violation of the Geneva Accords. "We are leaving Afghanistan with a feeling of success," he said. The Afghan forces have been strengthened and the Soviet Union would continue to provide humanitarian, moral and material assistance (Newsreel—English: January 31, 1989).

Radio Kabul: As a result of armed forces mopping-up operations in the Tajekan Region, Jabal-us-Saraj district, 94 extremists were killed among which were 4 of their ringleaders, namely Habib Khan, Zabet Hasel, Agha Sherin, and Gorg. In the course of these successful operations three trucks and a large quantity of assorted weapons and rocket missiles belonging to the extremists were seized by the armed forces. According to another report, as a result of launching long-range heavy weapons at the Jabal-us-Saraj Region, the extremists wounded five armed forces personnel (January 25, 1989).

In the course of mopping-up operations in a number of provinces of the country heavy losses in men and material were caused to the extremist groups.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that as a result of crushing blows of the Armed Forces in Tajakan area of Parwan province, 206 extremists belonging to the Jamiat band were wiped out (January 26, 1989).

During the past one month the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan issued two declarations about the subversive activities of Ahmad Shah Masood's armed group as well as about the closure of the Salang Highway. In these declarations the Afghan government has put forward several peace proposals to Ahmad Shah Masood's group about maintenance of security along the Salang Highway and prevention of looting of caravans of the vehicles carrying food grains

and other items of daily use to Kabul. Similarly in these declarations reference was also made towards the letters sent to him in which he had been asked to enter into a dialogue with the Afghan government about maintenance of peace along Salang Highway and ending of further bloodshed.

But so far Ahmad Shah Masood has not given a positive reply to the Afghan government. His group continues to loot and destroy the vehicles carrying food grains and fuel to Kabul via Salang Highway. The anti-people acts of Ahmad Shah Masood are indicative of the fact that the extremists supported by Pakistan militarymen are not satisfied with making missile and rocket attacks on residential areas but they also continue blocking highways and looting transport vehicles carrying food grains, and thus they want the people to die of starvation. Whatever is happening along the Salang Highway, the Ahmad Shah Masood group is fully responsible for that. The Armed Forces are busy in ensuring security along the Salang Highway to keep the supply of food-stuff continuing to the respected citizens of the country (News—Pushto January 27, 1989).

Radio Moscow: Traffic has been restored on the highway linking Afghan capital Kabul with the border area of Hairatan situated in the north of the country. More than two hundred trucks escorted by troops of the Afghan Armed Forces supplied foodstuffs and petroleum products to the capital.

The traffic had remained suspended for a few days on this important highway due to subversion of the armed opposition (News—Urdu: January 13, 1989).

The Afghan Army has launched an offensive against the opposition units which disrupt the normal food supply to Kabul. On Monday government troops killed three hundred and seventy extremists and destroyed three arms depots and twelve re-inforced positions.

Meanwhile, in the Afghan capital a statement has been issued recalling that Afghan military command has repeatedly urged groups of Ahmad Shah Masood to immediately stop attacks on the convoy heading towards Kabul from the north. But the subversive activities are still continuing (News—Urdu: January 25, 1989).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: On January 3, Mujahideen captured the strongly fortified Gulbahar Textile Factory complex after several days fierce fighting. Here the regime had established about 40 pickets and security posts which were evacuated before the Mujahideen entered the factory premises. Among the large number of weapons and other items

taken possession of by the Mujahideen at Gulbahar were 60 trucks and lorries.

BBC: An Afghan guerilla leader Ahmad Shah Masood has said that seventy people were killed in a missile attack on Wednesday in Panjsher valley north of Kabul. In the incident four Scud missiles exploded near Khench (ph). Later, fierce fighting took place between Afghan guerillas and the Soviet-Kabul forces for control of the nearby Salang Highway. It is said that hundreds of people have been killed in the fighting (Shabnama—Urdu: January 30, 1989).

VOG: Government troops in Afghanistan have launched an offensive against Muslim rebels in the Panjsher Valley, north of the capital Kabul. The Soviet Tass News Agency citing Kabul Radio said the troops had advanced across the Salang Pass and put more than four hundred rebels out of action. The Pass is the only road leading from Kabul to the Soviet border. It is essential for bringing supplies to the capital's two million inhabitants and for withdrawing the Soviet forces overland. Latest reports reaching us from Kabul say the Government troops have now broken through rebel lines and are in a position to lift the siege of Kabul (News—English-Urdu: January 25, 1989).

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: On January 17, Mujahideen launched a combined attack on Mehtralam, headquarters of Laghman province. Forty regime troops defected to Mujahideen alongwith their arms.

Radio Kabul: A group of twelve persons headed by Hatam Khan engaged in armed activities in Alinagar district of Laghman province announced his desire to abandon hostile activities and participate in the peace process (News—Urdu: January 7, 1989).

In an operation in Laghman province, 6 warmongers were killed and 3 were wounded. Six assorted weapons were seized in the operation (News—Pushto: January 12, 1989).

Kabul Times: In an operation of the security forces in Kaman region of Laghman province six extremists are reported killed and another three wounded. Their six assorted weapons have also been recovered (January 14, 1989).

Logar

Radio Kabul: As a result of the heavy blows of the armed forces on the hideouts of extremists many extremists were killed including two of their ringleaders known as Moulvi Mohammad Nabi and Aminullah and one person was injured (January 30, 1989).

Kabul Times: A caravan of weapons of the extremist groups which

wanted to carry ammunition to the Dobandi region of Logar province, received shattering blows by the armed forces as a result of which 23 guards of the caravan were killed and a large number of their ammunition was destroyed (January 1, 1989).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: On January 7, Mujahideen shot down a MiG-21 aircraft near Rajkoh in Maidan district. The plane was hit with a missile. It's Russian pilot was killed.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below are the major Radio Kabul propaganda themes in January 1989, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Differences in the ranks of extremist opposition are increasing. They are losing credibility for continuing fratricidal war against the Afghan people.
2. Pakistan and Imperialist countries are violating Geneva Accords and shedding the blood of innocent people of Afghanistan.
3. Government of Afghanistan has taken many initiatives for peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem.
4. The people of Pakistan, and the world, had hopes from the new democratic government of Pakistan, but unfortunately, it continues to follow Zia's policies.
5. Foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is increasing day by day.

Radio Moscow

Given below are the major Moscow Media propaganda themes in January 1989, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Strict compliance with the Geneva Agreements by the Soviet and Afghanistan governments reflects their desire for peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem.
2. The Irreconcilable Opposition wants war and bloodshed. They fight even among themselves.
3. The new democratic government in Pakistan declares it desires cordial relations between Pakistan and neighbouring countries.
4. Violation of Geneva Accords by Pakistan and Western countries is increasing inspite of Soviet fulfilment of promise on troops withdrawal.
5. Soviet-Afghan cooperation in the field of science and technology for development of Afghanistan.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN JANUARY 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	91 killed and	15 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	1124 killed and	863 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	365 killed and	181 wounded
Defections	:	828 Kabul troops defected and	2291 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	222 killed and	219 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	1396 killed and	1502 wounded

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses

Aircrafts	21	Mortars	31
Helicopters	10	Oil Depots	2
Tanks	114	KHAD Offices	2
APCs	49	Quantities of Arms and	
HMVs	221	ammunitions	12
Trucks	70	Wireless Sets	25
Oil Tankers	44	Ammunition Depots	21
Jeeps	10	Security Posts	92
LMGs	167	Buildings	8
HMGs	146	Bridges	2
Doshaka	4	Bulldozers	14
Assorted Weapons	2200	Tractors	5
Rocket Launchers	53	Water Pumps	2
Klashnikovs	3854	Oil and Gas pipelines	4
Pistols	54	Boxes of ammunition	210
Barracks	7	Food	(Kgs) 25000
Fuel destroyed (tons)	85		

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN JANUARY 1989 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Mujahideen and Afghan Civilian ("Counter-Revolutionaries") Losses:

Killed	3296	
Wounded	677	
Captured	34	
Returnees: Civilian	1993	(Those availing amnesty, Refugees voluntarily surrendering, armed men changing allegiance, and surrendering 302 joining Soviet-Kabul ranks).

Mujahideen Material Losses

S-A Missiles	6	
Hideouts	118	
Recoils Guns	3+8	Boxes of Shells
Vehicles	13	(9 loaded with arms)
LMGs	26	
Dashaks	35	
Rocket Launchers	69+5	Shells
Assorted Weapons	299	
Mortars	81+182	Shells
Explosives	84	Fuses
Munition Depots	59	
Reactivator Units	15	
Ground-to-ground Missiles	230	
Bullets Thousands seized at three different places		
Mules Laden with arms	2	
Mines (Misc)	1170	

Losses inflicted by counter-revolutionary elements

Human Losses:	Killed	116	
	Wounded	75	
Material Losses:	Houses	2	
	Shops	27	
	Vehicles	517	looted, 81 burnt

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN JANUARY 1989
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Engagements		
		Provincial Capital	Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	4	Lashkargah	2	—
Qandahar	67	Qandahar	7	21
Zabul	—	Kalat Gilzai	—	—
Ghazni	15	Ghazni	3	9
Paktika	—	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	33	Gardez	1	1
Ningarhar	93	Jalalabad	5	10
Kunar	—	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Nooristan	—	Godwal	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	Faizabad	2	—
Takhar	13	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	28	Kunduz	2	6
Baghlan	41	Baghlan	2	11
Samangan	—	Samangan	—	—
Balkh	13	Mazar-e-Sharif	1	2
Jozjan	4	Shebergan	—	—
Sar-e-pul	6	Sar-e-Pul	1	—
Faryab	7	Maimana	1	2
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	19	Herat	—	4
Farah	9	Farah	—	3
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	—	Chaghcharan	—	—
Uruzgan	7	Tarin Kot	—	4
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	18	Kabul	4	6
Parwan	33	Charikar	3	3
Kapisa	5	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	1	Mehtarlam	1	—
Logar	—	Pul-e-Alam	—	—
Wardak	2	Koteasro	—	1
TOTAL	420		35	83

APPENDIX — 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN JANUARY 1989
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets			Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground		
Bordering Pakistan						
Nimruz	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	3	1	—	—	—	4
Qandahar	17	28	21	1	—	67
Zabul	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	3	12	—	—	—	15
Paktika	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	11	15	2	5	—	33
Ningarhar	20	33	29	11	—	93
Kunar	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR						
Badakhshan	—	2	—	—	—	2
Takhar	1	2	10	—	—	13
Kunduz	8	10	7	3	—	28
Baghlan	15	15	9	2	—	41
Samangan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Balkh	6	2	4	1	—	13
Jozjan	—	2	2	—	—	4
Sar-e-pul	—	2	2	—	—	4
Faryab	—	2	4	—	—	6
Badghis	1	4	—	2	—	7
Bordering Iran						
Herat	6	7	6	—	—	19
Farah	5	1	3	—	—	9
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces						
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	1	4	2	—	—	7
Kabul & Adjacent						
Kabul	5	10	2	1	—	18
Parwan	14	7	9	3	—	33
Kapisa	—	5	—	—	—	5
Laghman	—	1	—	—	—	1
Logar	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wardak	1	1	—	—	—	2
TOTAL:	117	164	108	31		420

APPENDIX — 5

PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN JANUARY 1989 (Radio Kabul)

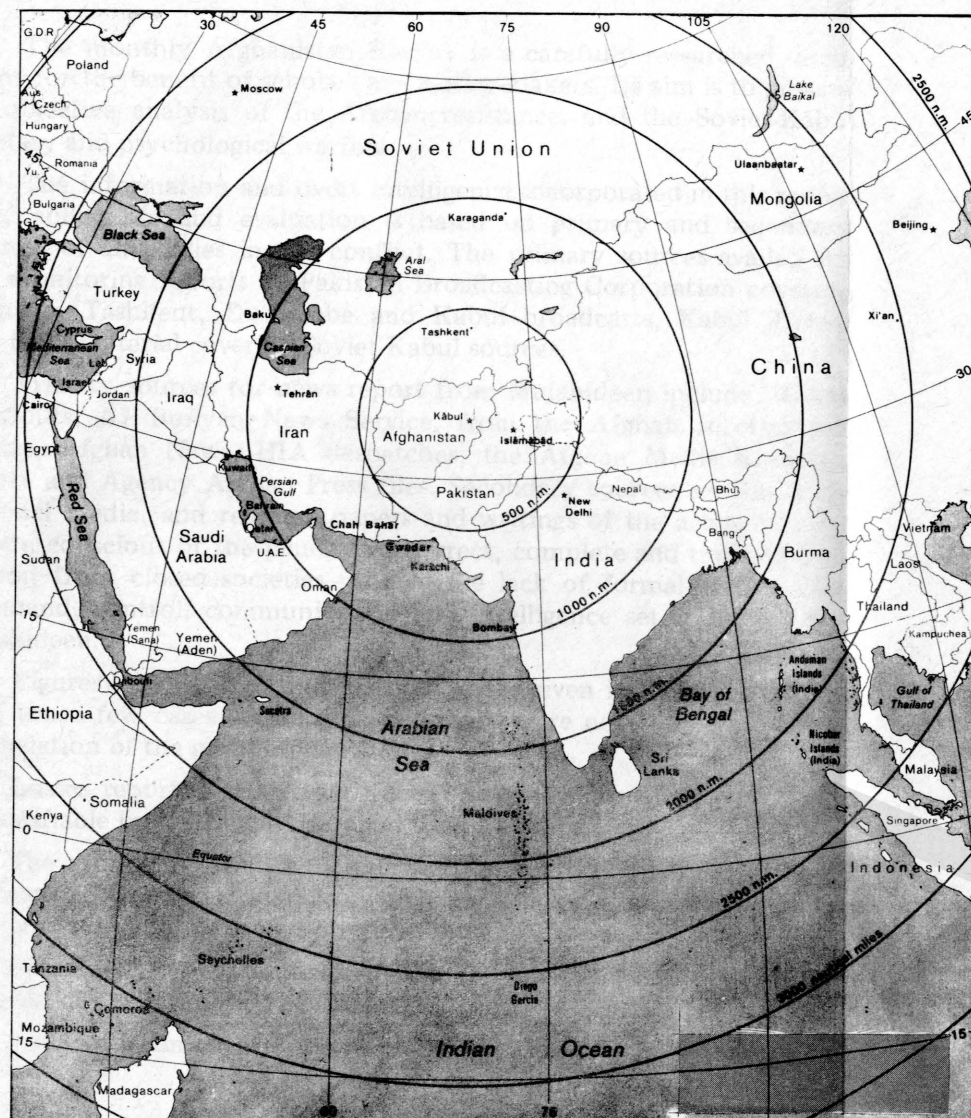
Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Returnees	Armed men surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	6	1	—	—
Qandahar	25	5	1108	25
Zabul	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	—	2	—	—
Paktika	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	9	14	—	—
Ningarhar	25	5	—	—
Kunar	1	—	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	1	2	—	—
Takhar	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	11	4	—	—
Baghlan	4	6	—	—
Samangan	2	—	—	—
Balkh	—	1	—	—
Jozjan	3	—	—	65
Faryab	1	—	—	—
Sar-e-pul	1	—	—	—
Badghis	—	2	800	150
Bordering Iran				
Herat	14	4	185	50
Farah	2	1	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—
Ghor	1	—	—	—
Uruzgan	1	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	15	2	—	—
Parwan	16	17	—	—
Kapisa	2	—	—	—
Laghman	3	1	—	—
Logar	2	—	—	1 2
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	146	72	1993	302

APPENDIX — 6

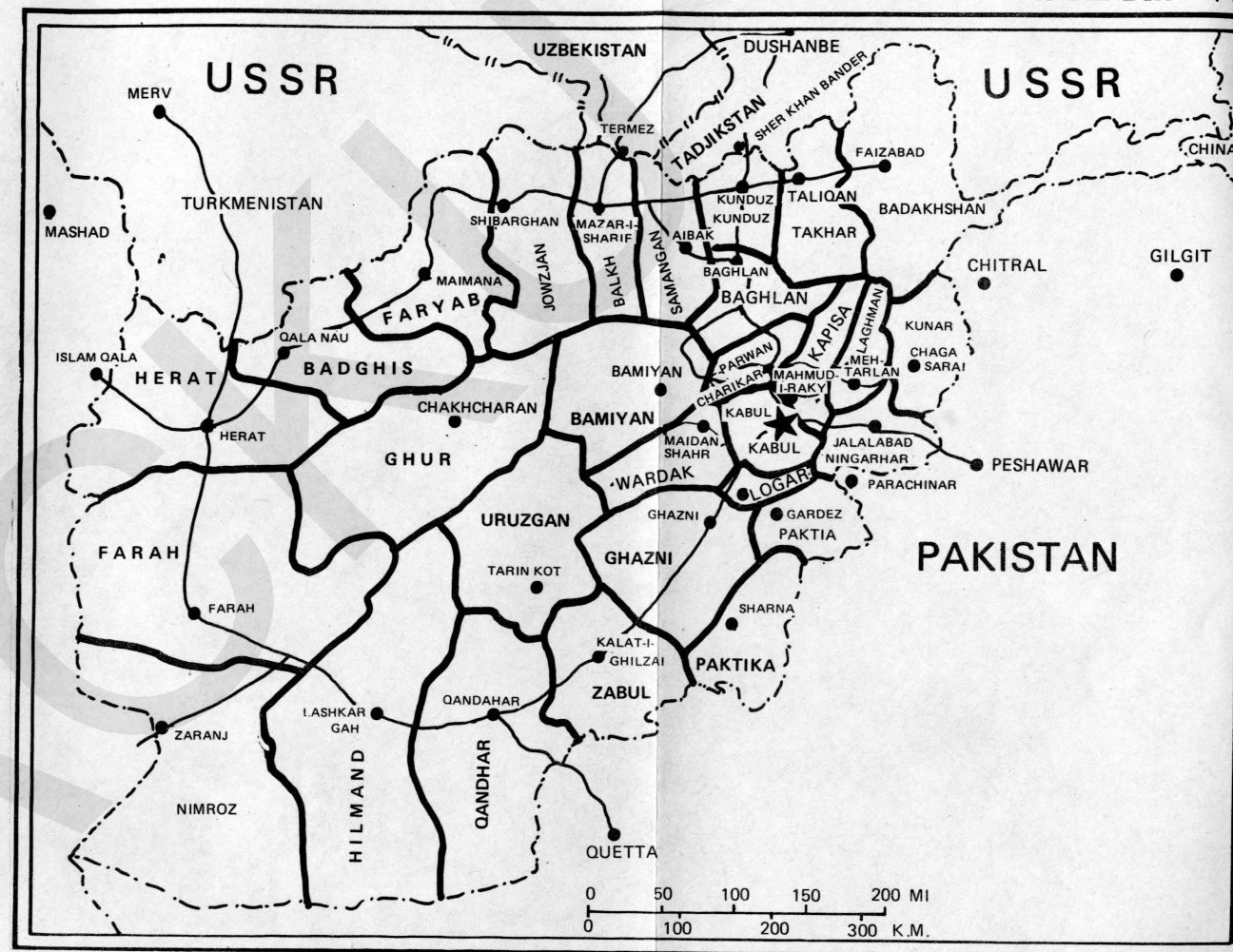
AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN JANUARY 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses Destroyed/Damaged	Date (1988-89)
		K	W		
Qandahar	Chilghoor	10	15	100	08-01-89
Qandahar	Qandahar	5	10	—	26-01-89
Qandahar	Angori	10	—	—	27-01-89
Ningarhar	Kama	50	—	—	—
Ningarhar	Kama	—	—	10	10-01-89
Ningarhar	Kama	120	—	—	12-01-89
Ningarhar	Dara-e-Noor	15	—	10	13-01-89
Ningarhar	Kama	10	—	10	18-01-89
Takhar	Khost-e-Fring	13	50	—	18-01-89
Kunduz	Imam Sahib	40	—	—	15-12-88
Kunduz	Khan Abad	42	100	—	22-01-89
Baghlan	Baghlan	1	—	—	11-01-89
Baghlan	Doshi	2	—	—	11-01-89
Baghlan	Salang Tunnel	50	50	—	27-01-89
Balkh	Hoza	13	50	—	14-01-89
Sar-e-Pul	Jorghon	15	—	50	28 1 2-88
Faryab	Pashtoon Kot	15	—	100	12-12-88
Herat	Mir Sayed	10	15	—	28-01-89
Herat	Shahrak	5	—	4	27-01-89
Farah	Delaram	—	12	4	21-01-89
Parwan	Salang Tunnel	200	—	50	23-01-89
Parwan	Salang Tunnel	600	1200	—	27-01-89
Kapisa	Khinj	70	—	—	27-01-89
Total: 23 Incidents		1396	1502	338	

APPENDIX — 7 A



APPENDIX — 7 B



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during January 1989 in 21 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimroz, Zabul, Paktika, Kunar, Nooristan, Samangan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Ghor and Logar

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during January 1989 in 25 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimroz, Paktika, Nooristan, Takhar, Bamiyan and Wardak.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and FBIS material covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: IUAM Handouts, A1 Bunyan News Service, from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches, the Afghan Media Resource Centre and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during January 1-31, 1989. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate December, 1988 incidents reported in January 1989.

II.— POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

New Law On Military Service

President Najibullah signed as per the provisions of Para 2 Article 75 of the Constitution, amendments to the Paras 1 and 2, Article 91 of the law on military services and to the supplement No. 2 of the law on telephone which were previously approved by National Assembly.

Text of the amendments to paras 1 and 2, Article 91 of the law on military services:

Para 1, Article 91

Officers and non-commissioned officers who have served in the armed forces of Afghanistan and have been dismissed from their ranks due to legal reasons or were retired under the court verdict, considering their ages, are liable to be recruited to the military services according to the following:

1. They are mobilized for military and reserve services if they had undergone a complete four-years period of service.
2. They are mobilized to reserve services if they had undergone a complete period of four to six years of service.

Para 2, Article 91

If those, covered by the Para 1 of this article, had served over six years are to be exempted from both military and reserve services.

The amendments enter into force as of the date of signing and are published in the official gazette (KT, 4 January).

Soviet-Mujahideen Talks Held

Following the Taif talks, a second round of talks was held between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet Union on Friday (January 7, 1989) in Islamabad. Sibghatullah Mujaddidi the current chairman of the IUAM headed the Mujahideen delegation which also included two members of a team of Iran-based Afghan Mujahideen. Soviet delegation was led by Yuli Vorontsov, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union. During the talks the Soviet Union insisted on share for PDPA in future government, which was rejected by the Mujahideen and the talks ended in deadlock.

Negotiations on the future of Afghanistan have reached deadlock.

After a round of talks in Islamabad the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov said he could not understand why the Mujahideen refused to observe the ceasefire which had been unilaterally declared by the Kabul regime. He also criticised the rebels rejecting any participation by the Communists in a future government. He said if the Mujahideen did not stop looking at the world through the barrel of a rifle and see reasons in the near future there was a danger that Afghanistan would be divided (VOG, 8 January).

Mujahideen Suspend Further Contact with the Soviets

Afghan guerilla leaders say they will hold no further talks with the Soviet Union until all Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan and the Soviet backed government of President Najibullah has been removed. The announcement was made at a news conference in Islamabad by the leader of the Seven Party Alliance Mr. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi. Also present at the news conference were leaders of the Mujahideen groups based in Iran. Mr. Mujaddadi said the Mujahideen have decided to break off their recent series of talks with Moscow because of the remarks made on Saturday (January 9, 1989), by the Soviet Union Chief Negotiator on Afghanistan, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, who said Soviet support for the Najibullah government would continue after completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan (BBC, 9 January).

Sibghatullah Mujaddidi said in an interview to BBC that the main reason is that the Soviets have failed to present any concrete proposals during the past two rounds of talks. Moreover, they are asking us to accept the representatives of Kabul regime in the future government and the Shoorā. How can we include the representatives of Kabul regime in the future government of Afghanistan when we know that this very regime is responsible for all the destruction in Afghanistan. Secondly, while addressing a press conference after the second round of talks, Yuli Vorontsov put all the responsibility of destruction in Afghanistan on the Mujahideen, whereas the fact is that they themselves are responsible for the killing of millions of Afghans. They destroyed cities and towns and rendered the Afghans homeless and despite all this they are holding the Mujahideen responsible for this situation. Hence, after this press conference the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen has decided that there is no need for further talks. He added, we will however, continue the talks if they completely withdraw their troops from Afghanistan and abandon their support to the present Kabul regime. Moreover, they should also respect the will of the Afghan people and should recognise their right to self-determination (BBC, 9 January).

Appeal to Continue Negotiations

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shervardnadze has issued a new appeal to the Afghan Mujahideen to resume negotiations on the future of their country. Mr. Shevardnadze who is visiting Kabul said the door remained open for a constructive dialogue with other guerilla groups (BBC, 15 January).

President Ali Khamenei of Iran has made a direct appeal to the Mujahideen leaders to resume their talks with the Soviet Union on the future of Afghanistan. Mujahideen broke off the dialogue with the Chief Soviet Negotiator Mr. Yuli Vorontsov last week. In a message read out to the conference attended by leaders of the Iran and Pakistan based Afghan groups, President Khamenei said the talks were a positive development and the continuation of the dialogue would be useful. But he told the Afghan leaders the aim of foreign powers was to sow discord and there was greater need than ever for them to remain united (BBC, 15 January).

Pakistan has urged the Afghan Mujahideen to continue their contacts with the Soviet Union. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said last week's breakdown of talks between the two sides would not help to bring about a political settlement in the country (BBC, 16 January).

Mujahideen Agreed to form a Shoora

Seven Afghan resistance groups based in Pakistan have decided to form an interim council, a Shoora, to govern Afghanistan when Soviet troops leave in six weeks time. The decision was taken in Peshawar shortly before the Mujahideen were due to meet the Soviet envoy Mr. Yuli Vorontsov. Seven-Mujahideen group based here has finally decided to form a Shoora, involving representatives of all the parties. Upto 60 members will be appointed from each group and 50% of them will be commanders now fighting the war in Afghanistan. The decision has been approved by all the parties. Professor Mujaddadi said that the Shoora will be drawn from the fighting men, the political figures and also the scholars from both inside Afghanistan and abroad (BBC, 3 Jan.).

Leaders of the seven-party Afghan Mujahideen Alliance have set up a screening committee to assess nominees to the proposed Majlis-e-Shoora. The Committee consists of seven members (VOA, 18 January).

Leaders of the Afghan Mujahideen have started nominating members for the consultative council which will hold its meeting next month to discuss the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan. The Peshawar-based Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen held its meeting yesterday in which it decided to form a Committee for assessing the nominees to the Council. They have announced that at least 60

seats will be reserved for the Iran-based Mujahideen. Meanwhile, a UN official has expressed the hope that every Afghan group will be given representation in the Council. However, the Mujahideen leaders have ruled out the inclusion of the members of the Soviet-backed regime or the Communist Party (VOA, 19 January).

The eight-Party Council of Islamic Alliance of Afghanistan, Harkat-e-Enqelab-e-Islami Afghanistan led by Maulvi Mansur, Islamic Unity Movement of Afghanistan led by Qazi Mohammad Amin and Harkat-e-Enqelab-e-Islami Afghanistan member of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen led by Maulvi Moazzan have in a statement expressed their opposition to the formation of 480-member Council proclaimed by the seven-Party Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen.

Referring to the fact that the struggle and jihad by the Afghan Muslim nation has now reached its final phase, it is now necessary for the leaders of jihad to guide the nation for the consolidation of unity and mobilisation of all the struggling forces. It was also stressed in the statement that armed jihad will continue till the unconditional withdrawal of aggressive forces, the fall of Kabul regime and the establishment of an Islamic Government in Afghanistan.

The statement further said that the 480-member Council announced by the Peshawar-based seven-Party Alliance does not enjoy consensus of the masses and is not acceptable to all the Mujahideen (Radio Tehran, 23 January).

Representatives of the Pakistan-based seven-Party Afghan Alliance, Mr. Gulbadin Hekmatyar, arrived in Tehran on January 25, at the head of a delegation for talks with Iranian officials and leaders of the Iran-based eighty-Party Afghan Alliance. In an interview he said that talks between the Mujahideen leaders should be focussed on the structure of the future government in Afghanistan. He added, all the parties of the Afghan Mujahideen believe in unity in this regard. Mr. Hekmatyar ruled out the participation of present Kabul regime elements in future Afghan coalition government. He also said, the division of Afghanistan into two parts is impossible. He concluded that Najib government would not be able to survive after the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan (Radio Tehran, 26 January).

Soviet Union Continue Support to Najib Regime

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze has assured President Najibullah of Afghanistan that Moscow will continue to back his government while seeking a solution to the Afghan conflict. The Soviet news agency TASS says, the assurances have been given in Kabul following Mr. Shevardnadze's arrival there on January 13, on an

unannounced visit (Radio Australia, 14 January).

During his stay in Islamabad, Mr. Vorontsov was asked to comment as to what situation will emerge in Afghanistan if opposition did not agree to reach a political settlement, he said with certainty that the present Kabul government would remain in power and the Soviet Union would continue to support the Afghanistan government after the withdrawal of its troops from there (Radio Moscow, 9 January).

Yuli Vorontsov Visit Iran

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov has arrived unexpectedly in Iran for more talks on ending the conflict in Afghanistan. Mr. Vorontsov, whose trip to Tehran was not announced in advance, he plans to confer with Iranian officials as well as Iran-based leaders of the Afghan resistance (VOA, 1 January).

The Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Yuli Vorontsov has begun talks in Tehran with Iranian leaders and Iranian-based Afghan Mujahideen. Iran News Agency IRNA said, Mr. Vorontsov who is also the Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan stressed that none of the parties involved should be excluded from attempts to settle the Afghan issue. It is also reported that the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Velayati pressed in talks with Mr. Vorontsov for the Soviet Union to speed up the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan so that a government chosen by the people could be formed (VOG, 3 January).

Zahir Shah to Accept Any Role

In a press interview for the daily LE MONDE, Mohammad Zahir Shah has said that after the withdrawal of Soviet Forces from Afghanistan, he would be ready to accept any mission that the people of Afghanistan would entrust to him. French News Agency reports from Paris that while commenting on his meeting with Yuli Vorontsov, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, the former King of Afghanistan said that Yuli Vorontsov has informed him of the position of the Soviet Union which he finds to be similar to his own (Radio Kabul, 24 January).

Formation of a broad-based Government: Need of the Moment

The Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto has said that any move to solve the Afghan problem must be acceptable to all the parties concerned. In an apparent reference to the Soviet Union, Ms. Bhutto said, no body could force the resistance forces to accept proposals which they found objectionable (Radio Beijing, 13 January).

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan while addressing a session of the

Senate on the progress of his discussions with the Soviet special envoy to Afghanistan Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, said that contrary to Soviet predictions, it was the Kabul regime who were split and weak, not the Mujahideen. He said it were the Mujahideen who proved their unity over ten years and the military advantage now lay with them. They now control most of the territory of Afghanistan and it was the Kabul regime which was riddled with differences. Mr. Yaqoob Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan added that great emphasis should be placed on the fact that time was the essence, the need of the moment was to move rapidly towards establishing a broad-based interim government (BBC, 19 January).

An Assistant of the UN Secretary General based in Islamabad has reached New York. He will submit his report to the Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Monday about the implementation of the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan and possibilities of formation of a broad-based government in Kabul. This is being done under the powers entrusted to the UN Secretary General by the UNGA to work for formation of a representative government in Kabul by holding talks with different groups of Afghanistan (AIR, 15 January).

The sudden announcement by Afghan Mujahideen, that they were breaking off negotiations with the Soviet Union has brought a swift response from the Afghan leader Najibullah. In a televised speech, he said they had rejected every proposal made by the Soviet side during the recent talks in Islamabad. According to the President, the Mujahideen in Iran and some of the groups in Pakistan had accepted the principal of a broad-based government which would include all political groups including his party, the PDPA. This position he said, was also supported by the Iranian and Pakistani authorities. The President also reiterated that his regime would continue to defend itself and his policy of National Reconciliation. If the extremists refused to settle the conflict by peaceful means, he said, the responsibility for further bloodshed would rest with them (BBC, 9 January).

Top Soviet Officials Visit Kabul

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze has arrived in Afghanistan. It was a previously unannounced visit and follows the breakdown of talks between Afghan guerilla leaders and Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov about forming a broad-based government in Afghanistan (BBC, 13 January).

Afghan President Najibullah held a meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze at his office on January 14, 1989. They discussed issues pertaining to the situation in and around

Afghanistan. Both sides expressed the belief that prospects for achievement of political settlement to the Afghan problem have brightened. The Soviet side also reaffirmed its determination to play a role of a mediator for continuation of a dialogue in Afghanistan because in this way the Afghans can settle their mutual disputes and adopt a neutral, non-aligned, non-militant and independent stand. The Afghan President said his government was desirous of finding ways and means to end the war. The Soviet side reiterated its support to the policies of the Afghan leadership and made it clear that the Soviet Union would continue to extend all assistance to Afghanistan under the agreements signed between the two countries. During the meeting matters pertaining to the supply and delivery of foodstuff and consumer goods were also discussed and an agreement on the supply of consumer goods and fuel to Afghanistan was signed. Soviet Foreign Minister also held separate meetings with Prime Minister, Mohammad Hasan Sharq and Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil.

The Soviet Defence Minister, Demitri Yazov has concluded his two-day working visit to Afghanistan, during which he met President Najibullah and the heads of some Ministries and other government agencies. The parties reaffirmed the identity of views on the dead-line for the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingent from Afghanistan and also a number of other political, military and economic issues. They stated that practical progress had been made in all these areas and they worked out short and long term plans for further joint actions. It is the first time that the Soviet Defence Minister has visited Kabul during the Soviet Union's nine year military involvement in Afghanistan (Radio Moscow, 29 January).

Another Soviet top official has arrived in the Afghan capital, Kabul. The visit is being seen as part of Moscow's effort to reassure the authorities there of continuing support once all Soviet troops have gone home. The official Mr. Yuri Maslyukov who is head of the Soviet State Planning Commission would be discussing economic assistance to Afghanistan. His visit is the first of a Soviet economic expert since the signing of an agreement in Moscow last year which correspondents say underlined Afghanistan's almost total dependence on the Soviet Union for the supply of basic goods (BBC, 29 January).

Soviet Troops Withdrawal Starts

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze has said that the Soviet Union will not delay the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. Mr. Shevardnadze made a pledge in Kabul on Sunday (January 15, 1989) before returning to Moscow at the end of an un-

expected visit to Afghanistan. He told the Kabul news agency Bakhtar that Moscow will just start withdrawal of remaining fifty thousand Soviet troops in Afghanistan before February 15, deadline set under the Geneva Accords. Mr. Shevardnadze also said that Moscow will continue to support the Kabul regime if civil war broke out in Afghanistan after the Soviet troops had left (Radio Beijing, 16 January).

The Soviet Union has resumed its troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Moscow suspended the pull-out in November last year because of, what it described as, the worsened military situation in Afghanistan. Now Western diplomats say large number of Soviet soldiers were seen leaving Kabul for home over the past week (Radio Netherland, 10 January).

The Soviet Union says it has begun the final phase of its troops withdrawal from Afghanistan (ABC, 21 January).

According to Afghan Mujahideen sources in Pakistan during the past week some 5,000 Soviet troops were withdrawn from the Shind-and airbase. Still stationed at Afghanistan most important military base will some 15,000 soldiers who would have to withdraw to the Soviet Union by mid February. Mujahideen sources gave a renewed assurance that an un-official ceasefire was being observed to allow the Soviet troops to leave safely (VOG, 23 January).

Some Embassies Closed Down in Kabul

The countries which have announced to close down their Embassies in Kabul are America, France, West Germany, Italy, Britain and Japan. The Soviet Union has also reduced the number of its Embassy staff (VOA, 28 January).

Family members of the staff of the Indian Mission in Kabul are being withdrawn in phases. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that some of the Indian families have already returned. He said this has been done in view of the security situation there (AIR, 30 January).

The Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan has accused western countries of spreading fear and panic by closing their Embassies in Kabul. A statement issued by the Afghan Foreign Ministry on January 29, 1989, said Afghan forces are quite capable of protecting foreign diplomats and their Embassies (VOA, 30 January).

2 — SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The press department of the Presidential Office informed that as per the instruction given by President Najibullah an authorized commission under the chairmanship of Abdul Rahim Hatif was set up to

organise better transportation and distribution of essential goods and combat against hoarding and economic sabotage.

Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister, Gen Mohammad Rafi and Abdul Wahid Sarabi, Vice Presidents and Niaz Mohammad Mohmand Politburo member and Secretary of the PDPA CC were assigned as deputy chairman and members of the commission respectively (KT, 11 January).

Kabul Face Acute Shortage of Energy and Food

Liz Ducet, a BBC correspondent reports from Kabul: In Kabul, queues for diesel and kerosene begin before six in the morning. People mostly young children stand for hours and the lines for the Russian-style ration seem to be getting longer and more unruly every day. When night falls, there are electricity cuts. Some parts of the city are getting only a few hours of power each day. Shortages have been a fact of life for some time here. But local residents say they can't remember whom it was this bad. Government officials blame it for heavy snowfall which is piling up on the Salang Highway, and partly on the guerillas who have been intermittently blocking this road as well as the one that is leading in the east to Pakistan. Most private traders are now refusing to drive on the Salang Highway, because too many of their trucks have been looted by different guerilla groups posted along the road. Those who are going are getting double the usual wages. Businessmen are quoted as saying that more than eight thousand containers of goods are blocked at the city of Hairatan, near the Soviet border. No one wants to bring them down to road. The Government says that some people are exacerbating the shortages by hoarding essential goods in the capital. They have given them one week to put their stocks on the market. If they don't comply a stiff punishment is said to be given (BBC, 9 January).

The Soviet Union has said that there is now an acute shortage of electricity and fuel in the Afghan capital Kabul, as a result of a blockade by rebel forces over several months. A Moscow Radio correspondent in Kabul says rebel road blocks have prevented food and essential goods from reaching the city and as a result prices in the bazars had increased sharply. A Moscow Radio report said there has been no shelling of Kabul recently but workers and staff have been formed into self-defence units ready to defend the city against attacks (BBC, 8 January).

The Soviet News Agency TASS says that Afghan government is distributing food on daily basis due to shortage of supply in the Afghan capital and other cities. According to TASS, a special Commission has been set up by President Najibullah to ensure the distribution of food,

eliminate its hoarding and to combat the prevailing situation. Earlier, the Soviet News Agency had reported scarcity of food, fuel and other basic commodities in Kabul. TASS also said that Kabul government has started arresting the hoarders (VOA, 12 January).

Emergency Measures Adopted

The Soviet Union has increased supply of essential commodities to the Afghan capital Kabul by air. According to the Soviet news agency TASS, 15 aircrafts carrying 25 tons of flour each are landing in Kabul daily, which has been besieged by the Afghan Mujahideen. It is not possible to send essential commodities to Kabul through land routes because of attacks by Mujahideen are continuing on the important highway linking Soviet Union and Kabul (VOG, 24 January).

The food situation in Afghanistan continues to be critical and the Soviet troops before their evacuation have handed over the emergency rations to the Afghan officials on January 26, 1989. It has been announced that huge stock of foodstuff and fuel is sufficient for three months for the city of Kabul, if Mujahideen besiege the city after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops (VOA, 26 January).

More than 300 food and fuel loaded trucks rumbled into Kabul city, on January 29, through the snow-bound highway from the Soviet Union. An Afghan commander at one check-point said the convoy had survived guerilla attacks with one driver suffering a bullet wound in his leg (BBC, 29 January).

The food situation in the Afghan capital, Kabul, has improved following large-scale airlift by the Soviet Union. Reports from Kabul say Soviet aircrafts and trucks are supplying the capital with large amounts of flour and weapons (Radio Netherland, 24 January).

Soviets Blame Kabul Authorities for Food Shortage

Soviet Television said the situation in the city besieged by rebels and cut off by heavy snow has become critical. One reason the Television said was irresponsibility and inefficiency of Afghan authorities incharge of food supplies. There has also been sabotage by some people in the administrative apparatus.

Earlier one of the Senior Officers of the Soviet High Command in Afghanistan, General Levsligrav (ph) supported reports on Soviet Television that the Afghan authorities are partly to be blamed for food shortages in the capital, Kabul.

General Levsligrav told foreign journalists that people responsible for ordering food supplies have not done so in time. He said traders were also hoarding food to try to push up prices.

General Levligrav said there were not enough supplies in Kabul but they are not being properly distributed.

Soviet planes have begun bringing in flour from the Soviet Union and the daily airlift will continue for one week (BBC, 23 January).

Mujahideen Supply Food to Cities

Meeting of the Supreme Council of the Seven-Party Alliance was held in which food shortage in Afghanistan was reviewed. A statement issued after the meeting said that the Council will despatch foodstuff for the people of the area around Kabul and areas near Jalalabad. However, it has not been made clear in the statement as how the items would be carried to the areas in the present weather, said to be very hard after several years, and what procedure will be adopted for the distribution of the material in the situation of war. The statement only said that the material will be distributed free of cost (BBC, 23 January).

The Afghan Seven Party Alliance has sent a consignment of food from the Headquarters of the Resistance Movement in Pakistan to the Afghan city of Jalalabad. While addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Saturday, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani said that one caravan consisting of 40 trucks entered Jalalabad city on Friday to meet food shortage created there as a result of Mujahideen blockade and severe winter. Professor Rabbani stated that this caravan faced government artillery on January 26, but trucks succeeded in entering the city in batches of two and three. The Afghan government troops made no interference in the distribution of food. He said Mujahideen intend to send more food assistance (VOA, 28 January).

UN Relief Assistance

The United Nations is negotiating with Afghan Mujahideen so that emergency assistance could be sent to Kabul where food and fuel are running short. The organisation is also sending two relief goods convoys to the areas outside Kabul which are under the control of the guerillas (BBC, 28 January).

A UN official in Geneva, Mr. Nelson Morelo says, although certain officials of the UN humanitarian and economic assistance team had been withdrawn from Kabul yet some of them will be sent back there to help in the distribution of foodstuff among the people. These officials are expected to reach Kabul in the next few days. The UN official said that the UN has contacted those Mujahideen groups, which are controlling the Torkham-Jalalabad road, but they (the Mujahideen groups) were not unanimous whether to allow the UN relief caravan to

go to Kabul. Some groups say permission should be given, while others are of the view that the war is the first thing (BBC, 25 January).

3 — REPATRIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

The UN coordinator for humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan opened his office in Pakistan two months ago. The office has been extending assistance to all Afghans. The assistance include seeds and agricultural equipments. The head of this UN agency told in Islamabad that a number of Afghans of different areas in Afghanistan have come to the Agency to seek assistance. He said now their applications are being processed. But he said it is difficult to carry out such assistance in the areas where fighting is going on (BBC, 13 January).

The United Nations Aid Coordinator for Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan has said that his agency has prepared procedure for distribution of aid in Afghanistan.

Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan also said that due to large scale destruction and laying of explosive mines, the job for distribution of aid and reconstruction will become difficult. He said regional governments and parties involved in Afghan war are extending cooperation in relief operations. About relief efforts made so far, the UN Coordinator said "I believe we have succeeded in building a political atmosphere in which we could take steps on humanitarian grounds. The regional governments and the other concerned governments including the United States and the Soviet Union and a number of other groups involved in the Afghan conflict recognise the fact that benefit of efforts for establishment of peace should go to all without consideration of their political attachment. I think it is very necessary".

He said that the United Nations aid programme included twenty programmes most of which are concerned with agriculture, health and technical education. Besides training, the Afghan people are also taught how to defuse the landmines. Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan also said that the United States, France, Turkey and Britain have sent their mine-sweeping experts to Pakistan. Other governments have also expressed their interest in extending help in this regard. In reply to the question whether the Soviet Union has provided maps of the areas where landmines have been laid, he said, "the reply given is not final. Some questions asked by us have not been replied so far. But as you know the Soviet Union is also extending its cooperation from the aspect that it has promised a considerable amount of aid. So far as landmines are concerned, I hope that the same attitude will be shown. It is obvious

that this will make our job very easy." He said so far promises have been made for 900 (nine hundred) million dollars in shape of cash and kind. He said they had needed 1.6 billion dollars worth of aid and relief after they had launched their programme. He said a huge amount would be required in the phase of reconstruction. Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan assured that his Organisation would exercise impartiality in distribution of aid and that equal treatment will be extended to call Afghans irrespective of their political attachment or communal or tribal background (VOA, 31 December 1988).

Land Mines: Still being Laid

The US Ambassador to Pakistan, Robert Oakley has recently told the VOA that the Soviets had been laying numerous fresh landmines. Therefore, the situation is that many more mines had been laid and no landmine had been removed. The large scale mines would make the great task of reconstruction more difficult. Millions of refugees in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan itself are anxious to return to their homes and to reconstruct their houses and farms which have been destroyed by the Soviet bombs. But before they could return to their homes, it is necessary to clear their areas from the landmines. The clearing of Soviet landmines in Afghanistan would be one of the difficult post war task. This requires some big international effort. Several countries headed by the United States are already working on collaboration with the United Nations to impart training to the Afghan refugees to trace and defuse landmines. Although these programmes may protect thousands of Afghans from being killed or crippled yet in the years ahead, it is feared that many people particularly children will fall prey to them. This is only one legacy of the Soviet barbaric and unprovocative war against the people of Afghanistan (VOA, 23 January).

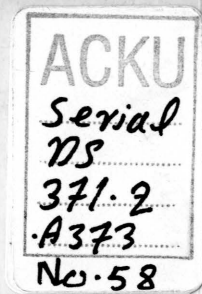
Reconstruction Assistance

While the United Nations is preparing plans for the reconstruction in Afghanistan, some American private organisations are working for providing medical facilities in Afghanistan in order to meet the immediate requirements of the Afghan masses. VOA correspondent, Dawood Majlis reports that it is just possible that the first American hospital may start functioning in April. Razi Ahmad Rizvi gives details:—

An interest-free private organization based in Houston, Texas, namely, "Afghan Hospital Relief" says that it intends to send such material to Asadabad in Kunar province of Afghanistan which will assume the shape of a hospital when assembled together. A Texas-based organisation, "Orthopaedic Overseas" which is working on

interest-free basis will install equipment in the hospital and will impart training to the Afghans for their use. The Chairman of Afghan Hospital Relief, Dr. V.J. Berg says that his organisation has recently concluded an agreement with the Peshawar-based Afghan Resistance Movement Alliance under which our organisation has sought permission to run a hospital in Asadabad. It may be recalled that Asadabad is situated in the area which is under the control of the Afghan Resistance Movement. According to Dr. V.J. Berg the work is in progress at the moment. The material of the hospital will be sent next month on a flight scheduled to go there on humanitarian grounds. Later this material will be shifted to Asadabad. Mr. V.J. Berg said that his party will leave Houston, Texas on the 1st of April and reach Asadabad on April 4. Dr. V.J. Berg says that he held meetings with the UN Coordinator for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan and regional representative of the World Health Organisation and sought their approval for the establishment of the hospital. This approval was sought before signing an agreement in Peshawar with Mr. Farooq Azam who is the head of the reconstruction department of the Afghan Resistance Movement. Dr. V.J. Berg said that it will be a simple hospital and will carry out minor surgery in gynaecology, orthopaedic and general treatment. The Afghan nurses and doctors will be on the staff of the hospital. He said, "we would try to appoint female nurses. We had also offered to the UNICEF to use some portion of the hospital for keeping their refrigerators to vaccinate the people". According to Dr. V.J. Berg, complicated patients will be brought to Peshawar for treatment. He said that his organisation, the Afghan Hospital Relief, by taking advantage of its experience from the hospital in Kunar province would like to establish similar hospitals in every province of Afghanistan one day. Dr. V.J. Berg said that his team intended to visit Kabul after normalisation of situation there. He said that his organisation intended to start a medical school in Kabul. He added that medical schools of Indiana, Nebraska and Minnesota Universities were helping in the efforts aimed at establishing a medical school in Kabul (VOA, 29 January).

Iran has promised political and financial support to help a new government in Afghanistan in order to recover from ten years of war in the country. The Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati said his country's backing will be for a government made up of Mujahideen guerillas to help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan once Soviet troops withdraw from the country. Mr. Velayati was speaking after a meeting in Tehran with head of the Seven Party Alliance based in Pakistan (BBC, 16 January).



STRATEGIC STUDIES

(Quarterly Journal)

Published by

The Institute of Strategic Studies
Sector F-5/2
(P.O. Box 1173) Islamabad, Pakistan

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